

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 25, 2022

10:00 A.M.



(You are invited to a time of quiet preparation for worship during the Prelude.)

Prelude *He Leadeth Me* – arr. Jason Payne

Ringing of the Bell Brad Adler

Welcome and Informal Moments

This is the day the Lord has made... Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

Musical Introit *Meditation from "Thais"* – Massenet/arr. Lamb

Call to Worship

One: The Spirit of God that breathes us into life whispers: Come home.

Many: We come home to the open arms of Love.

One: We come as we are.

Many: We come with joy.

One: We come hungry for nourishment.

Many: We come beaten down and burnt out.

One: We come eager to find our place in the whole.

Many: We come bringing all of who we are;

One: our grief and our anger,

Many: our regrets and our longings.

One: We give God thanks, for Christ's welcome is eternal.

*Gathering Hymn *Weave, Weave, Weave Us Together* No. 375

***Unison Prayer of Invocation**

Creative One, you have shaped us in such wondrously different ways. What gifts you have given us. Each bears glimpses of you in how we look, how we love, how we move through this world together. Make us good stewards of the riches of difference among us, that we might grow in empathy, deepen in love, and expand our understandings of justice. Amen.

Sung Benediction

*Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.*

Postlude

All'Offertorio – by Domenico Zipoli



Those serving you today:

Bell Ringer: *Brad Adler*

Ushers: **Judith Sutter & Tom Beane**

Flowers: **Carol & Gardner Knight**

Interim Minister: *Rev. Dr. Amy Lignitz Harken*

Organist: *Joel Pierce*

Sexton: *Mary McKinney*

Office Administrator: *Janet Leonard*

*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from
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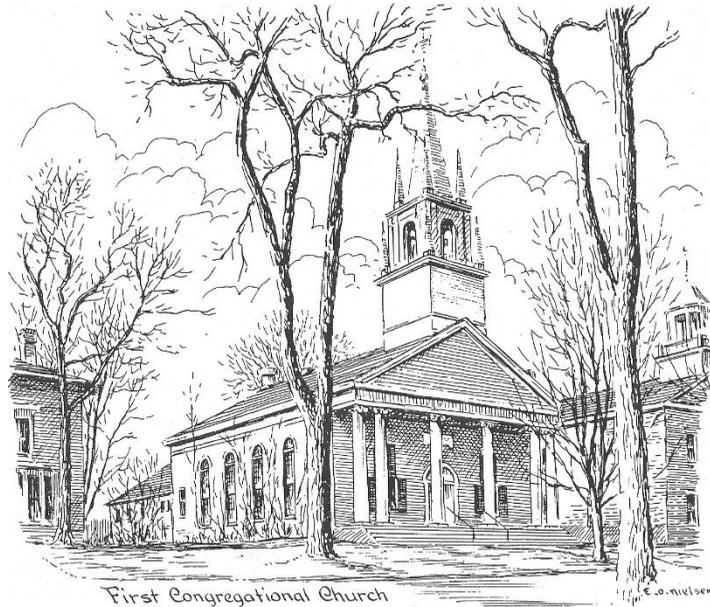
First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

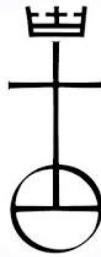
Wiscasset, Maine 04578

(207) 882-7544

www.uccwiscasset.org



We welcome you to the First Congregational Church of Wiscasset.
We are an open and affirming congregation and are open theologically,
growing spiritually, and concerned socially.



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Coming Up This Week:

Sunday, September 25:	Worship 10am, Rev. Alexis Fuller-Wright
Monday, September 26:	Game Night 6:00pm - 8:30pm
Tuesday, September 27:	Sheepscot Chorus 7:00pm-9:00pm
Wednesday, September 28:	Organ Society 9:30am - 11:00am
Thursday, September 29:	Chimes Rehearsal 3:00pm
Thursday, September 29:	Choir Rehearsal 4:00pm
Sunday, October 2:	Worship 10am

Announcements

Guest Preacher

Today we welcome special guest preacher Associate Conference Minister Rev. Alexis Fuller-Wright. She will be available after worship to meet the congregation. Welcome Alexis!

Blessing of the Animals

Wiscasset Town Common will be the location of our second annual **BLESSING OF ANIMALS** on Sunday October 2, at 2:00pm. All are welcome to bring their pets on leash or carrier, a photo of your pets or a stuffed animal to be blessed.

There will also be representatives from RESCUE CHARLIE'S FRIENDS who will share the work they are committed to. They are a nonprofit 501c3 all breed dog rescue. They are dedicated to rescuing homeless and abused dogs from high kill shelters to give them a good life in a great loving home! They have most recently moved into their new facilities in Woolwich.

There will be a photo booth with digital photo of you and your pet(s) being taken to celebrate your wonderful relationship with your companion! Treats for your 'fur babies' as well!

Supporting the Ministry of our Church

Thank you for your continued support in sustaining our ministries. Offerings can be mailed to the church at: First Congregational Church, P.O. Box 350, Wiscasset, ME 04578. Thank you!

John 5:1-9

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.” Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

Contemporary Testimony

Autobiography in Five Chapters by Portia Nelson

Chapter One

I walk down the street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I fall in. I am lost . . . I am helpless. It isn't my fault . . . It takes forever to find a way out.

Chapter Two

I walk down the same street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I pretend I don't see it. I fall in again. I can't believe I am in this same place. But it isn't my fault. It still takes a long time to get out.

Chapter Three

I walk down the same street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I see it there. I still fall . . . it's a habit . . . but, My eyes are open. I know where I am. It is my fault. I get out immediately.

Chapter Four

I walk down the same street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I walk around it.

Chapter Five

I walk down another street.