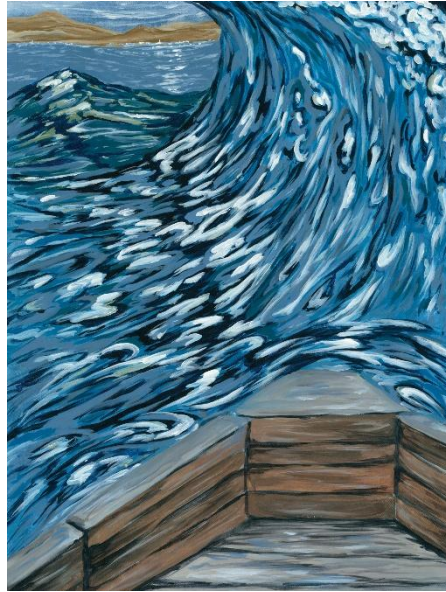


First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

An Open and Affirming & Creation Justice Church of the United Church of Christ



"Step into the Swell" Lisle Gwynn Garrity, A Sanctified Art

August 9th, 2026

Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin
Acting Associate Minister

Deacon's Quote of the Day

***"A world without a Sabbath would be like a man without a smile,
like a summer without flowers, and like a homestead
without a garden. It is the joyous day of the week.***

~Henry Ward Beecher

PRELUDE

Rejoice, O My Spirit
Craig Phylfe, baritone

J. S. Bach

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PASTORAL GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP *Inspired by Psalm 85*

One: The peace God speaks envelops us with wholeness, restores balance, and repairs all brokenness.

Firestation side: Steadfast love and faithfulness...

Library side: Righteousness and peace...

Firestation side: meet,

Library side: kiss,

Firestation side: spring up,

Library side: gaze down,

UNISON: encompassing all creation in goodness. Surely God's salvation is at hand!

***HYMN**

For the Healing of the Nations (see insert)

CALL TO CONFESSION

The deepest longing of our hearts is to be forgiven and embraced by our God. As we confess our sins, God speaks peace to us and makes us whole.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of silence and seas, we are more adept at making waves than calming storms. We find it easier to push people out of the boat, rather than make room for those who are different from us. Our lives are such a whirlwind of activity that we often fail to notice your presence or hear your sheer silence singing of your shalom to us. Have mercy on us, grab hold of us to keep us from being overwhelmed by the waves of our temptations. Give us the words to speak of your hope to others. Fill our hearts with the love of Jesus Christ, which is nearer to us than we dare to imagine. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Immediately our sins are forgiven, our lives are restored, and grace becomes our guide through this life.

UNISON: Thanks be to God! We are not left alone and take heart in the forgiving love of God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 14:22-33

MESSAGE

As Dawn Breaks on the Water

Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin

***HYMN**

Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls (see insert)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING *during outdoor services offering can be placed in the boxes located on the welcome table*

Because God cares for all without distinction and is generous beyond measure, as God's people we are to care for all people with generosity and gladness. We bring our offerings to be used for God's mission in the church and in the world.

OFFERTORY

Deep River
Craig Phyfe, baritone

H. T. Burleigh

CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH OFFERING THOUGHT

Donate

Instead of sending things to the landfill, find items that can be donated, recycled or upcycled.

*DOXOLOGY

Tune: Old 100th

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore: One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, we thank you for your call and claim upon our lives. We pray that our faith will increase, that our practice of generosity will be enlarged, and that our joy in believing will inspire and encourage others on their journeys of faith. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

*HYMN

We Live by Faith and Not by Sight (see insert)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

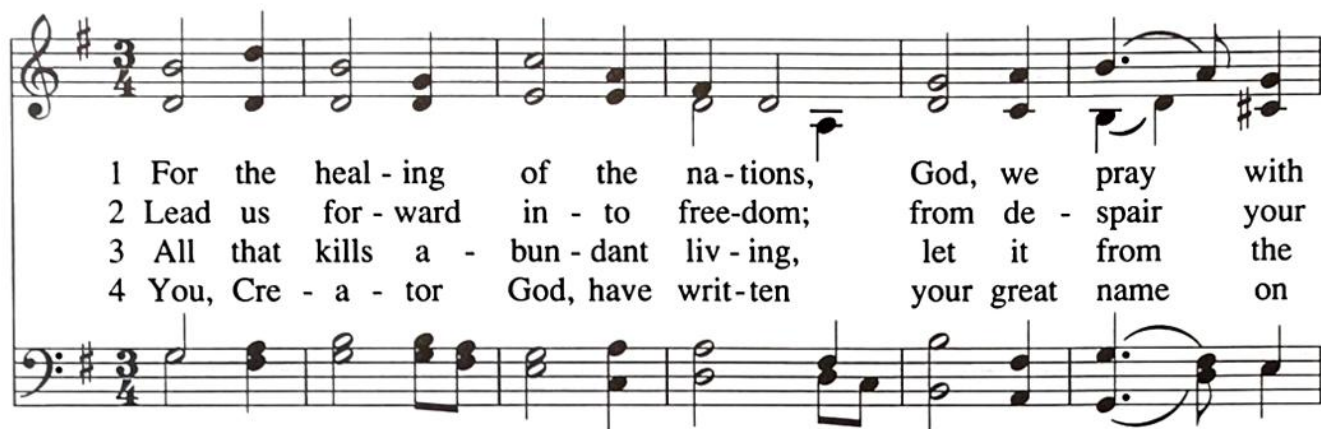
Now Heaven in Fullest Glory Shone
Craig Phyfe, baritone

F. J. Haydn

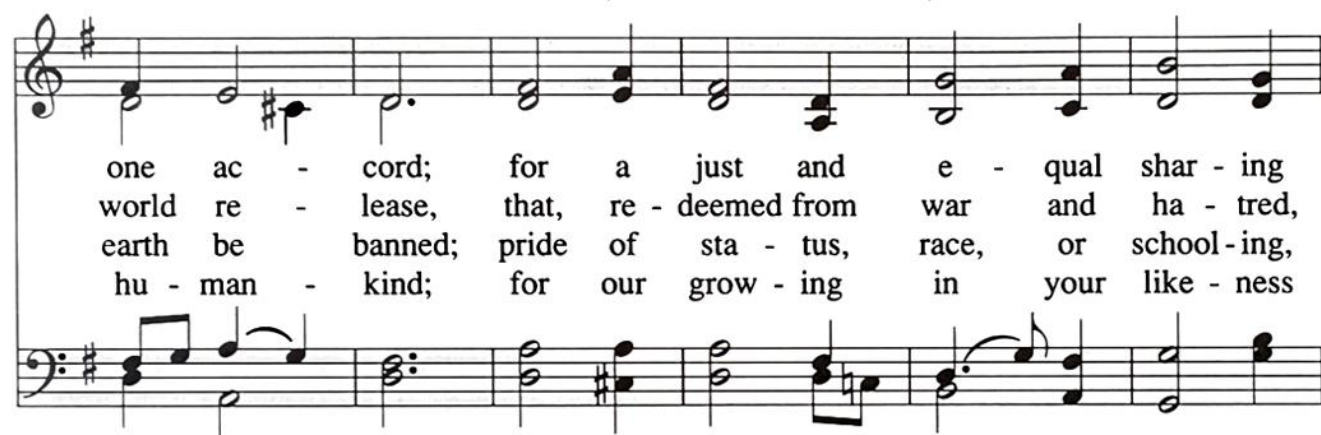
First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury (FCCS) is a vibrant, inclusive and
compassionate community of worship and mission.

We want our faith to transcend the things that separate us, to be tangible to endure tests of life and time and to be environmentally responsible, protecting God's creation. Led by the Holy Spirit, we look to Jesus Christ to guide us toward companionship, justice, and the inspiration to serve God and our community.

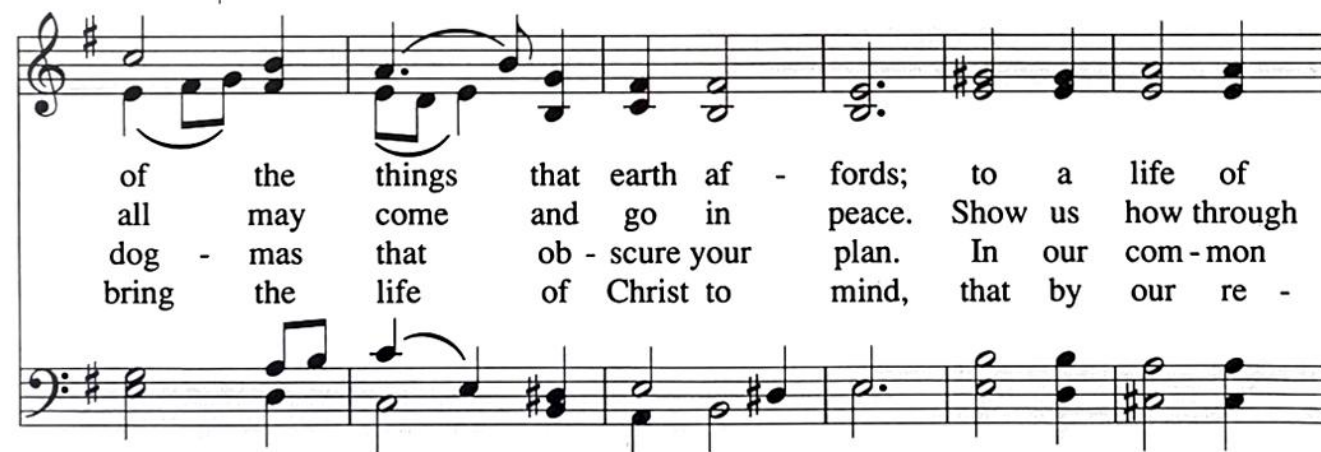
For the Healing of the Nations

Fred Kaan, 1965


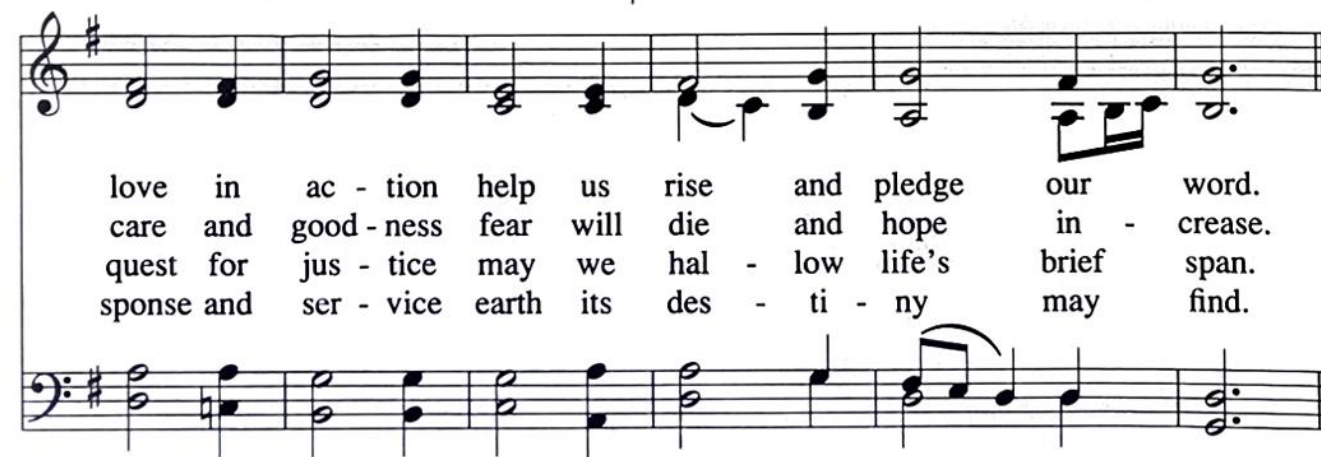
1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with
 2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
 3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on



one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness



of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -



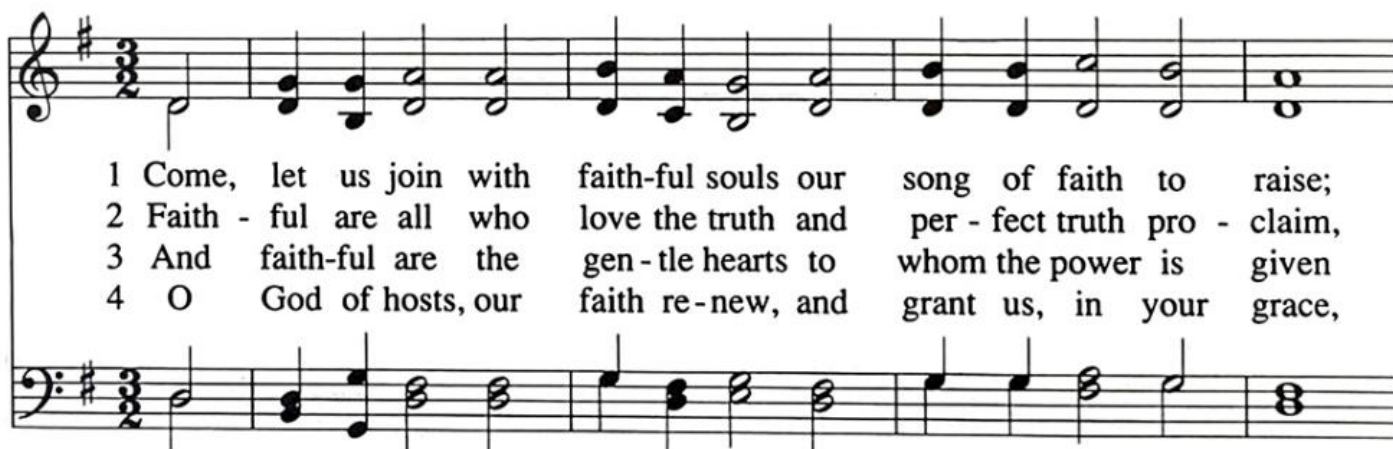
love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls

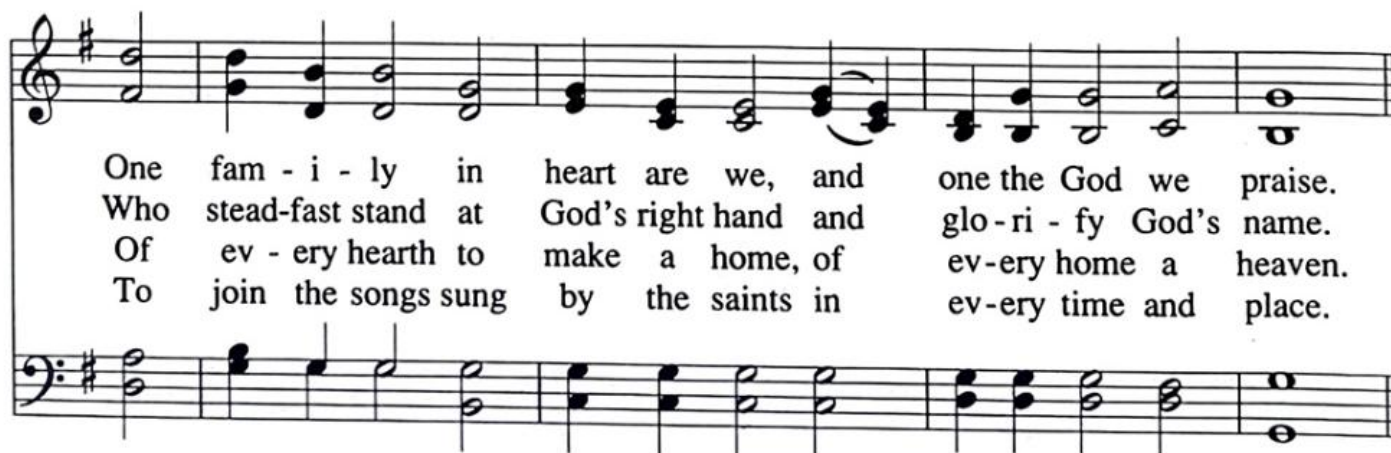
383

William G. Tarrant, 1892; alt.

Rev. 5:11-14



1 Come, let us join with faith-ful souls our song of faith to raise;
2 Faith - ful are all who love the truth and per - fect truth pro - claim,
3 And faith-ful are the gen - tle hearts to whom the power is given
4 O God of hosts, our faith re-new, and grant us, in your grace,



One fam - i - ly in heart are we, and one the God we praise.
Who stead-fast stand at God's right hand and glo - ri - fy God's name.
Of ev - ery hearth to make a home, of ev-ery home a heaven.
To join the songs sung by the saints in ev-ery time and place.

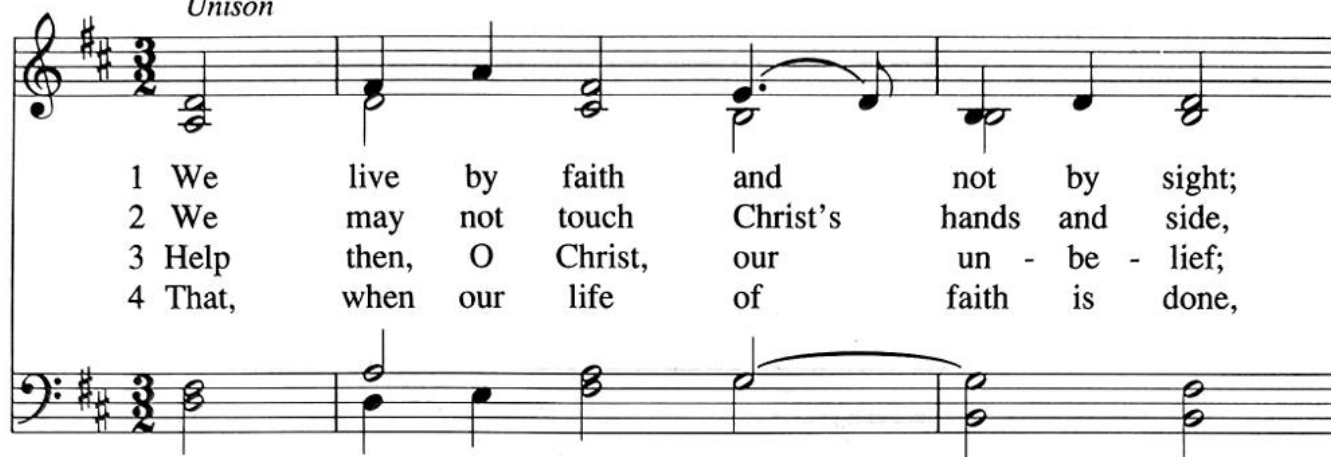
We Live by Faith and Not by Sight

256

Henry Alford, 1844; alt.

John 20:24-29

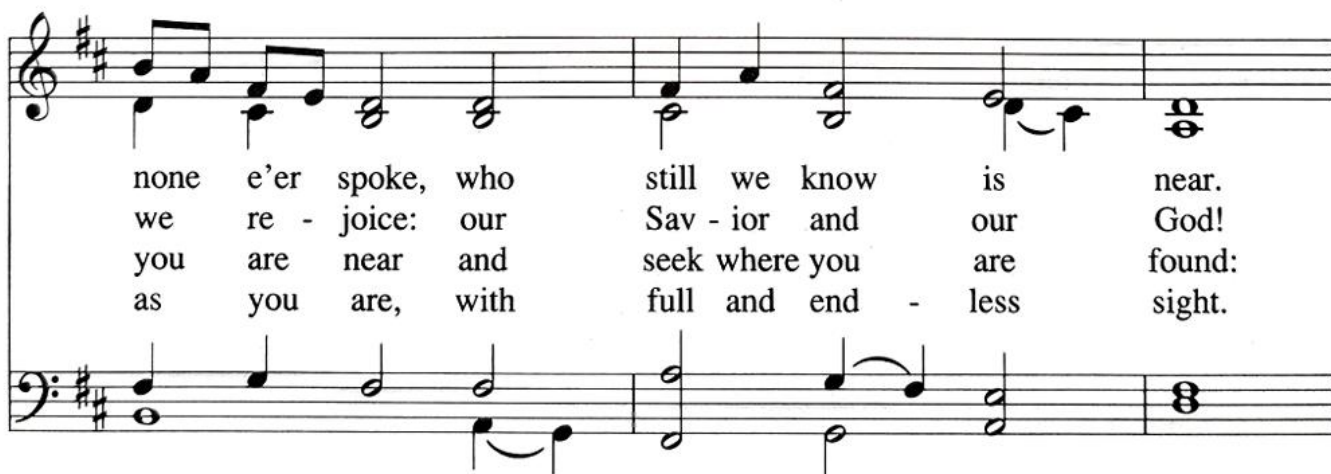
Unison



1 We live by faith and not by sight;
2 We may not touch Christ's hands and side,
3 Help then, O Christ, our un-belief;
4 That, when our life of faith is done,



no gra-cious words we hear From Christ who spoke as
nor fol-low where Christ trod; But in con-fess-ing
and may our faith a-bound To call on you when
in realms of clear-er light We may be-hold you



none e'er spoke, who still we know is near.
we re-joice: our Sav-ior and our God!
you are near and seek where you are found:
as you are, with full and end-less sight.

The Senior Minister is Rev. Holly MillerShank
The Acting Associate Minister is Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin
The Director of Music is Curtis Smith, guest musician Andrew Lefferts
The Deacon is Deb DelDotto
The Reader is Chelsea Cressman
Greeters are Laura and James Kenney

Altar flowers are provided in loving memory of Tom Baker by his wife Carol, daughters Tami and Carrie, son-in-law Peter and grandchildren Catherine, John Peter and Brian.

Liturgy adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor and lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com by Thom Shuman

GIVE HERE:



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Joanne Warmen; Martha Sederquest, Rosemary Horesta; Linda Holden; Bretton; Dan; Cindy and Sarah; Michael; Bob Podolski; Wendy; Jim; Mary; Sherry & Scotty Robertson; Susie and Brian Amos; Ruthie, sister-in-law of Dave & Sue; Lt Ethan Connors and all military personnel deployed in the Middle East; Jimmy; Jay Scott; James Kelly; Bernice Forrister; Deb Wallace; Anne & Jonathan Phyfe; Stanley; Sharon; David, brother-in-law of Kathleen & Dave Rocheleau; Roberta Jelinch's sister, Sandi.

-For those within our church family and all faith communities who are dealing with illness, caregiving, grief, mental health crisis, unemployment, hunger, and homelessness in their daily lives.

-Prayers for all those dealing with violence & loss as well as those recovering from natural disasters throughout our country and the world.

-For the people of Ukraine, Haiti and the Middle East whose lives continue to be shattered by war, as well as the many landscapes that are currently embroiled in conflicts.

-The mission & works of the First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury.

-Blessings to government officials, first responders, health care workers, military personnel, and all who protect and care for us.

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THIS WEEK AT FCC

Every day, 7am: AA, Cushing Hall

Every Wednesday, 5:30pm: ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics), Youth Room & 214

Every Sunday, 7pm: AA, Adkins Room

Every Thursday, 7PM OA (Overeaters Anonymous), Rm 214

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sunday, 8/9:

9:30am: Outdoor Worship on the Common

Monday, 8/10:

7:00pm: Jammers, Chapel

Tuesday, 8/11:

NO Guided Meditation

6:30pm: Climate Hope, Chapel

7:00pm: Budget & Finance, Adkins

Thursday, 8/13:

3-6pm: CSA Pick-up, FCC parking lot

7:15pm: Stewardship Committee, Adkins

Sunday, 8/16:

9:30am: Outdoor Worship on the Common

11:00am: Breakfast Bag Prep, Chapel

Pastor Holly will be away Aug 4-14

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm

