

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 16, 2026 | Order of Worship | *Congregational responses are in bold*



Prelude

Gabby Vallee (she/her)

Welcome

Deacon Theresa Sawyer (she/her)

Call to Worship

Led by Deacon Theresa Sawyer (she/her)

I will extol you, O God, for you have drawn me up,

Psalm 30:1-5

and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

O LORD, My God, I cried to you for help,

and you have healed me.

O God, you brought up my soul from Sheol,

restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

Sing praises to God, O you God's faithful ones,

and give thanks to God's holy name.

For God's anger is but for a moment,

and God's favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night,

but joy comes with the morning.

Hymn *(please rise in body or spirit)*

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

No. 25 in the Black Hymnal

Centering Words

On Pain | Kahlil Gibran

And a woman spoke, saying, Tell us of Pain.

Read by Deacon Theresa Sawyer (she/her)

And he said:

Your pain is the breaking of the shell that encloses your understanding.

Even as the stone of the fruit must break, that its heart may stand in the sun, so must you know pain.

And could you keep your heart in wonder at the daily miracles of your life, your pain would not seem less wondrous than your joy;

And you would accept the seasons of your heart, even as you have always accepted the seasons that pass over your fields.

And you would watch with serenity through the winters of your grief.

We Pass the Peace of Christ

Anthem

An Original Song by Paul Dann

Paul Dann on guitar & Cassie Cooper-Ricci (they/them) on bass guitar

Celebration of Gratitude

"If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough."

-Meister Eckhart

As we name the abundant blessings of our lives (anniversaries, birthdays, clean-and-sober milestones, and many more!), we offer a gratitude gift in any amount, so that the blessings we have received from God may be multiplied and shared with all who long to experience God's extravagant welcome in this church and beyond.

Please consider using a gratitude heart, located in the racks in the pews, if you choose to make a gratitude gift.

We Sound the Bell

A Message for all Children of God

Pastor Spencer Law (he/him)

♪ Go now in peace, go now in peace
May the love of God surround you!
Everywhere, everywhere you may go ♪

Sharing Our Sacred Story

Read by Deacon Theresa Sawyer (she/her)

Reader: Friends, hear what the Spirit is saying to the church today.

✦ Psalm 42

NRSV

✦ Matthew 8:1-4

NRSV

Reader: This is the story of life for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

The Rev. Raymond Clothier

Hymn *(please rise in body or spirit)*

Be Still, My Soul
No. 488 in the Black Hymnal

Prayers of the People

The 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 sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering of Love & Promise

Deacon Theresa Sawyer (she/her)

Offertory Music

An Original Song by Paul Dann

Paul Dann on guitar & Cassie Cooper-Ricci (they/them) on bass guitar

Words of Thanksgiving *(please rise in body or spirit)*

Praise God, from whom blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that Love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication *(please rise in body or spirit)*

Loving and Holy God, we ask that You would pour out Your blessing on this offering today. Guide us in Your way and use these gifts to make our church and our world even more:

We call out words like “joyful, kind, just” to bless our church and world

Benediction

Postlude

Gabby Vallee (she/her)



All are warmly welcome to join us downstairs following worship for Snack & Chat! Whether you bring a dish or simply bring yourself, there's a place for you at the table.

Service Credits:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Missions is looking for volunteers for our August transfer station/redemption center fundraiser. We are looking for folks with a truck or trailer that can load returnable bottles and cans from the transfer station and deliver to Bridgton's redemption center downtown. Please let Kate O'Malley, Tina Estes, or Martha Murray know if you're able and willing! Missions is so grateful for your continued support!

FIRST CHURCH SEA DOGS TRIP!

Take me out to the ballgame, take me out to the crowd... Sign up now for an all ages outing to see the Portland Sea Dogs play the Reading Fightin' Phils on **Sunday, August 23rd**! We'll provide round trip bus transportation from the church free of charge. The bus will depart from First Church at 11:30am and return to the church at 5:30 pm.

PADDLE & PRAY BOAT CHURCH

Mark your calendar for Boat Church, an outdoor worship service on Highland Lake on **Saturday, August 29th at 2 pm!** We'll gather at the Nicholsons' home and beach for an informal worship service, light refreshments, and time together on the water. Stay tuned for more details during the announcements in worship

SAVE THE DATE!

Rally Day will be on **Sunday, September 13th** this year! We are still working out all the details, but more information will be available soon.

Online
Giving



This
Week's Email



Subscribe to
the Weekly Email



FIRST CHURCH MINISTRY LEADERS

Ministers

All of Us

Senior Pastor

Rev. Emily C. Goodnow (*she/her*)

Minister for Intergenerational Innovation

Pastor Spencer Law (*he/him*)

C.E. Coordinator

Sandy Wissmann (*she/her*)

Director of Music Engagement

Cassie Cooper-Ricci (*they/them*)

Guest Musician

Gabby Vallee (*she/her*)

Office Manager

Kylie Morel (*she/her*)

Co-Moderators

Rosemary Wiser (*she/her*)

Marita Wiser (*she/her*)

Treasurer - Asst. Treasurer

Peter Clark (*he/him*)

Gail McBride (*she/her*)

Trustee of the Week

Bob Wentworth (*he/him*)

Deacon of the Week

Theresa Sawyer (*she/her*)

Greeters-Hospitality

Martha Clark, Priece Hutchins, Eileen Perry

C.E. Leaders

Jess & Edna Engstrom

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

- Worship, 10 am, the Rev. Raymond Clothier preaching
- Snack & Chat, fellowship hall, following worship
- Deacon's Meeting, 11:30 am
- Personnel Committee Meeting, 11:30 am

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

- Church Office Closed

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

- Jeanette's Closet, 9-11 am
- Tiny Tots is on hiatus until September 15th
- Staff Meeting, 10:30 am
- Topics on Autism, 6 pm

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

- Bible Study, 10 am
 - We will study the story of Martha in Luke 10:38-42 and start with Diane's opening question: *what's a house project you've taken on that has stretched you?*
- Missions Meeting, 5:30 pm

NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

- Worship, 10 am, the Rev. Emily C. Goodnow preaching
- Snack & Chat, fellowship hall, following worship
- Sea Dogs Trip! Bus leaves at 11:15 am

Church office is open 9 am - 12 pm, Mon-Fri
33 S. High St., Bridgton ME 04009 | 647-3936
bridgtonucc.org | office@bridgtonucc.org