

South Freeport Church

An Open & Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Sunday Worship

May 11, 2025, 9:30am

Welcome to Worship at South Freeport Church!

As an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, it is our mission to be a source of worship, service, education, and healing for all. We welcome all people of any race, gender, nationality, ethnic origin, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression. We support full participation of everyone in the life and programs of this church. We recognize the rights of all persons, just as Christ accepted all people he encountered. We believe that in meeting each other in Christian love, God's Spirit frees us all to give, to grow, and to be ourselves. So whoever you are, and wherever you are on the journeys of faith and life, know that you are welcome here!

Welcome to all **visitors**, we are delighted that you have joined us today. Please make yourself at home here. We would love for you to fill out a **Welcome Card** in the back of the pew in front of you, which you can place in the Offering Plate later in the service.

We invite families with young kids to explore the **Prayground** area in the back of the Sanctuary. Children are always welcome to be their authentic selves here: noises, wiggles, and all! We also have a **Nursery** available in the classroom nearest to the organ, with a live audio feed of the service, staffed with wonderful care providers.

After the Time with Young Disciples about fifteen minutes into the service, we invite children and youth to go upstairs for **Children's Church** (PreK - 5th grade) and **Middle School Youth Group** (6th - 8th grade) if they wish.

We have **Hearing Amplifiers** available for all those who need them, located in the back of the Sanctuary. We also have a **Wheel Chair** if needed. Please ask an usher for assistance, and they'd be happy to help.

Your giving online or in-person enables the nurturing ministry of South Freeport Church to flourish. Each one of us plays an important part in the life of this faith community through the sharing of our gifts, including needed financial support. You can give in-person during the Offering, by mail at P.O. Box 46, South Freeport, ME 04078, or online at southfreeportchurch.org/giving.

If you would like to **dedicate flowers** for an upcoming Sunday service, or serve as an **Usher**, or bring something yummy to share as **Coffee Hour Host**, please sign up on the clipboards in the Community Hall, or reach out to Beth in the church office at beth@southfreeportchurch.org or 207-865-4012.

Order of Worship

**Please rise as you are able*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Rev. Sean Patrick Coady

INTROIT

MEDITATION

Tim Whitacre

“The death of Jesus left a fledgling faith community bereft until they themselves rose out of his grave to begin life over again, wiser for what they knew, stronger for what he was, determined now to finish what had already been begun. All things end so that something else can begin.” – Sister Joan Chittister

CALL TO WORSHIP by Annie Besant

O Hidden Life, vibrant in every atom;
O Hidden Light! Shining in every creature;
O Hidden Love! Embracing all in Oneness;
**May each who feels himself as one with Thee,
Know they are also one with every other.**

*OPENING HYMN

“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”

#299

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Children and youth may now head upstairs to Children’s Church and Middle School Youth Group

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, the psalmist declares that you are our shepherd and we shall not want.
You lead us to green pastures and still waters. You restore our souls.
Yet too easily we wander from your fold, O God. We forget that we are safest together.
We turn away from you and one another. We seek nourishment from toxic sources.
Forgive us for our waywardness, O Great Shepherd. Restore us, once again. We pray.
Time for silent prayer

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

Beloved of God, let’s not forget what else the psalmist says!
Though we walk through the darkest valleys, fear not, for God is with us.
Even when we feel most distant from our Creator, God never abandons us. Whatever we have done, or left undone, God’s love overflows with forgiveness and restoration.
Surely goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives, and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

RESPONSE SONG

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

#5

SCRIPTURE

Acts 9:36-43

Tim Whitacre

SERMON

“Tabitha”

Rev. Sean Patrick Coady

CHORAL ANTHEM

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father/Mother/God/Creator, 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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all 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

*CLOSING HYMN

“Give Thanks for Life”

#518

BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE

“Go Now in Peace”

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 God 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. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Earth Day Worship

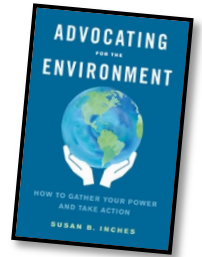
Sunday, May 18, 9:30am

With Earth Day falling on Easter Sunday this year, our Green Team has been working on creating an Earth Day Worship opportunity on May 18 instead. After all, every day is a good day to celebrate our amazing planet! Rev. Sean Patrick and members of the Green Team will lead worship with a very special guest:



Sue Inches is a local environmental activist who has worked in public policy for over 25 years. As Deputy Director of the State Planning Office, she conducted research, designed and led public engagement processes, and lobbied on behalf of the Governor. Prior to this Sue worked with the fishing, aquaculture and seafood processing industries as a Director at the Department of Marine Resources.

Sue recently published a book called *Advocating for the Environment: How to Gather your Power and Take Action*. It begins by illustrating how to understand and work with people with different views in order to move policies forward; it then moves into action ~ detailing how to use power for good, work with decision makers, organize events, manage a coalition, and communicate with the public. After worship, Sue will have copies of her book available for purchase in the Community Hall.



Winslow Park Clean Up

Sunday, May 18, 11:30am

To continue celebrating Earth Day and putting our faith into action, our Christian Education Committee has organized a fun service opportunity for all ages. We will head over to Winslow Park and divide into two groups to tackle these tasks:

1. Picking up sticks from campsites 102-96 and creating small piles of sticks for campers to burn in the fires.
2. Walking the 2-miles of coastline and picking up trash that has washed up (but nothing dangerous, like sharp objects).

Come one and all, as stewards and caregivers of our planet, to celebrate Earth Day in Worship and in Action!

Denis Drobinski's "Shifting Winds" Wind Quintet
Concert at South Freeport Church
Sunday, May 18, 2:30pm

**Shifting
Winds**
Wind Quintet

Seven Seas



Kristin Taylor, flute
Kristen Fox, oboe
Heather Sumner, clarinet
Denis Drobinski, horn
Tony DeBruyn, bassoon

Works by:

- **Pierne**
- **Chadwick**
- **Lecuona**
- **Abreu**
- **Malando**
- **Drobinski**

Southern Climes

Sunday, May 18
2:30 PM
South Freeport Church
98 South Freeport Road, Freeport Maine



South Freeport Church

*An Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ*

Lay Leadership

Jennie Gwilym, Council President

Judy Brown, Vice President

Kathryn Morrison, Immediate Past President

Staff Team

Rev. Sean Patrick Coady, Minister

sp@southfreeportchurch.org

Bethany Dunfee, Admin. & Ed. Director

beth@southfreeportchurch.org

Denis Drobinski, Music Director

denis@southfreeportchurch.org

David Watts, Organist

Brooke Bolduc, Children's Church Teacher

Kessa Benner, Livestream Technician

Stella Kryzak, Nursery Care & Teacher's Asst.

*All music and words are reprinted by permission under
OneLicense.net, License #A-732223, and by CCLI, License #11429994.*

Cover Image: "Tabitha" by Sarah Beth Baca, sarahbethart.com



PO Box 46, 98 S. Freeport Rd, Freeport, ME 04078
www.southfreeportchurch.org | (207) 865-4012

