



Season of Epiphany January 11, 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: Today we begin worship together. After the Time for All God's Children, young people grades K-8 are invited to follow teachers upstairs to our one-room classroom.

There are clipboards with paper and coloring pages at the back of the sanctuary, for worshippers of any age to use during the service.

PRELUDE

Prelude No. 15 in G Major

JS Bach

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Like softly lapping waves,

ALL: We hear your invitation to walk this road with you.

One: Like the gently falling rain on our faces,

ALL: We feel your nearness and your love.

One: Like cool clear water for a terrible thirst,

ALL: We know your compassion and your mercy.

One: And so like a spring that feeds the deepest well,

ALL: May our devotion to you, and your commitment to all creation never run dry!

One: Let us worship the God of deepest depths.

***OPENING HYMN**

Here In This Place

#250

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: God of the water, of its guiding currents, and of the creatures who seek its lifegiving depths,

Too often we forget our promises to You, and the promises that You have made to us. We define our potential and our power by what we can accomplish on our own, forgetting the wonder that is born of toiling at Your side.

Too often we fail to share our burdens with You, and to take comfort and solace in Your love for us. We too often forget that Your love for us is perfect, and Your commitment to all creation is an unquestionable truth!

ALL: God who surges like the sea. Help us to turn to You in our difficult moments. Help us to remember the love that is shared between You and Your people. Fill our hearts with hope, inspire us to action, tamp down the fears that overwhelm us, and assure us that You are there whenever we need You. Hold fast to each and every one of Your people, O Lord, and look on us with love. Amen

PRAYERFUL PAUSE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

***SUNG RESPONSE** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* (Refrain) ☰

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.**

TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rich Mead

One: We turn again and again to this, the ancient story of God and humanity.
We come to it seeking comfort, wisdom, and inspiration.
We find all that and more!

**ALL: By God's grace, may we be changed by the words of this story,
made more loving and more stalwart in our pursuit of God's justice
for all creation. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1: 29-34

SERMON

Rev. Stephen Savage

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM

O Taste and See

Ralph Vaughan-Williams

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Dona Nobis Pacem

OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER ☰

Help us to live God's love and justice. You can make a secure gift by using the QR code, going to fccucc.org/donate, or by adding your contribution to the box at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you!



MUSICAL INTERLUDE

BLESSING THE OFFERING

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISMS

CLOSING HYMN

Earth and All Stars

#14

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Deep River

Spiritual, Arr. Mark Hayes

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WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team I, Richard Parker, captain.

Livestream: Thank you to Alex Ratta for managing our worship livestream!

Cover Photo by [Jonathan Cosens Photography](#) via [Unsplash](#)

The flowers on the altar are In Loving Memory of Paul Gray from his wife Beth De Tine, and daughter Sarah Gray.

How to make an altar dedication: Would you like to place flowers on the altar or light the Mission Globe in memory or in honor of a loved one? If so, please contact Danna Wiggins at dannawig2@gmail.com. If you'd like to dedicate the lighting of the church steeple, please contact the church office at 799-3361 or email office@fccucc.org.

☰ **Royalty for Spirituals:** Historically, the composers of African American Spirituals were neither known nor compensated for use of their songs. The FCC UCC music department has committed to paying forward a 'royalty' each time we include a Spiritual in worship. Funds are donated to atlanticblackbox.com. You are invited to contribute, as well. Mark your contribution as "Royalty for Spirituals." *Thank you.*

THANK YOU to FCC UCC member Bryan Wiggins for refreshing our church logo. Check out the updated design on the front cover of the bulletin.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO THE CHURCH IN 2025!

The business office will be sending out 2025 Giving Statements near the end of January. If you need one sooner, please be in touch to let Melissa know.

If you give online and haven't taken the time to update your giving amounts for 2026, now is a great time. You can do it online by going to the donate page on the church's website, signing in, and managing your current transactions. If you are unable to do so, you can email business@fccucc.org for an ACH/Credit Card Authorization form or pick one up at the church office. Fill out the required information and return it by mail or by dropping it off at the business office.

As always, feel free to reach out to Melissa at business@fccucc.org with any questions. Thank you and Happy New Year!

WEEKLY @ FCC UCC

Bible Study, Tuesdays, 12:30 - 1:30 pm in Davidson Lounge: Explore the scripture from the past Sunday, led by Rev. Steve Savage.

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 dmclure@fccucc.org.

Handbells rehearse on Wednesdays, 4:45 pm in Wright Pavilion. If you are interested in ringing in the choir or would like more information, please contact bell choir director Sharon Potter: handbells@fccucc.org.

COMING UP @ FCC UCC

Small Group: Parents of Adult Children, Monday, January 12, 6:30 – 8 pm, Wright Pavilion: If you are currently a parent of an adult child, you are invited to join us for an initial gathering. We'll talk about forming one or more ongoing "parents of adult children" small groups at our church. Light snacks will be provided.

Monthly Game Night, Tuesday, January 13, 7:00 - 8:30 pm, Wright Pavilion: Do you like to play board games? From classics like Rack-O and Rummikub to newer options like Ticket to Ride, there's something for everyone. Questions? Contact Kathy Sahrbeck at outreach@fccucc.org.

Second Hour with Maggie Somers, Maine Conservation of Voters, Sunday, January 25, from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.: Our Wabanaki Allies working group will host a forum on Wabanaki bills pending in the short session of the 132nd Maine legislature. Guest speaker Maggie Somers will help get us up to speed on two bills, in particular: LD 395 (An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations) and LD 785 (An Act to Enact the Remaining Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act).

Women's Spirit Circle: FCC UCC members Nancy Brajtbord and Pat Thatcher are creating a sacred, welcoming space where women (LGBTQIA+) can gather to share life, faith, laughter, and support, beginning in February. Share your interest and ideas with them at: Nancy Brajtbord (nancy.brajtbord@gmail.com)
Pat Thatcher (pat.thatcher123@gmail.com)

MISSION AND SOCIAL WITNESS

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

TODAY: Community Sing, Sunday, January 11, 3:30 pm at HopeGateway Church, 515 Woodford Street, Portland (2:45pm for those who wish to talk about organizing and singing in public spaces and to support social movements): This gathering is the source of some of the music we sing during vigils at the Cumberland County Jail. It also offers anyone the chance to sing in community - because singing is good for our bodies and spirits!

All ages welcome. Facilitated by Emilia Dahlin in a perfection-free field.

No Experience necessary.

Free to all (and please consider a donation to support the space).

You can make a donation to support Emilia's time too: Venmo @emilia-dahlin

Please listen to your body and come another time if you're feeling less than healthy. Masking is always welcome. Air purifiers will be present.

What is a community sing?

Questions: emilia@emiliadahlin.com

Weekly Multi-Faith Vigil outside the Cumberland County Detention Center, at the corner of Congress and County Way, every Wednesday from 2:45 – 3:15 pm
Community faith leaders host these vigils, which may include songs, silence, prayer or other spiritual practices to honor the sacred worth of all people, and to hold up everyone involved - those detained, officers, and our entire community.

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" then select "Contact Info Update Form."

Your positive reviews on social media help others to find us.

Write a review on Google (Thanks!). Like and follow us:



3RD ANNUAL
**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
CELEBRATION**



Artwork by Emma Wolfsohn

SONGS AND COURAGE FOR OUR TIMES

FEATURING THE SEA CHANGE CHORALE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

2:00 - 3:30 PM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

301 COTTAGE ROAD

SOUTH PORTLAND, ME

Free admission

Sponsored by the Greater Portland Multifaith Group