



The Power to Outwit

October 26, 2025

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.**



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

A Note for Families / Folks of All Ages: Today we begin worship together. After the Passing of the Peace, 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 *All Things Bright and Beautiful* arr. Sandra Eithun
Handbell Choir

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Rev. Alison Buttrick Patton and Rev. Stephen Savage

THRESHOLD MOMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP*

One: We gather today to worship the One who created us,

All: The One who calls us,

One: The One who equips us,

All: The One who loves us without end.

One: With joyful hearts, let us worship God.

***OPENING HYMN** *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* **#57**

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

One: Loving God, help us.

All: When we have run away, when we have turned our backs on love, when we have sought immediate satisfaction and not long-term healing, help us.

One: Merciful God, forgive us.

All: When we have been selfish or misleading, when we have put our own needs ahead of others', forgive us.

One: Powerful God, heal us.

**All: When our bodies, spirits, or relationships need mending, heal us.
Give us the open-heartedness to accept your grace, the courage to forgive each other and the wit and wisdom to build a better world together. Amen.**

PRAYERFUL PAUSE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Please rise, on your feet or in your hearts.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

***SUNG RESPONSE**

Peace Like a River

African American Spiritual 𐄂

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul. [Repeat]

I've got joy like a fountain...

I've got love like an ocean...

TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Walter Kimball

One: This is the sacred story of God's journey with God's people.

All: Holy One, open our ears to hear, our hearts to receive and our lives to be
expanded by your Word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23

SERMON

The Power to Outwit

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM

Hermit Thrush at Morn

Amy Beach

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father-Mother in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom and the power and the glory
forever. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

Bless the Lord, My Soul

Taizé

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING ANTHEM

I Believe

Mark Miller

BLESSING THE OFFERING

CLOSING HYMN

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

#505

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING FORTH

May the Blessing of God

Miriam Therese Winter

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WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team A, Terry Dallaire, captain.

****Call to Worship and Prayer for Forgiveness** were written by/adapted from Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

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

☞ **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. We are now donating funds to the **Indigo Arts Alliance**. You are invited to contribute, as well. Donate by check or online, with "Royalty for Spirituals" in the memo. Thank you.

WEEKLY @ FCC UCC

Tuesday Bible Study meets from 12:30 - 1:30 pm in Davidson Lounge:

Whether you are an FCC UCC member or just interested in joining in the fun, you are invited to join our weekly bible study group, to enjoy fellowship and to discuss the scripture from the past Sunday. Led by Rev. Steve Savage. All are welcome!

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 dmcclure@fccucc.org.

There will be no handbell rehearsal on Wednesday, October 29. Handbell rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, November 5. If you are interested in ringing in the handbell choir, please contact Sharon Potter at handbells@fccucc.org.

COMING UP @ FCC UCC

NEW: Flute Ensemble rehearsal, Wednesday, October 29, 9:00 am, Wright Pavilion. All flute players are welcome. If you would like to play in the ensemble and are unable to make the rehearsal, please contact Sharon Potter at handbells@fccucc.org.

Film Screening: *The Eternal Song*, Sunday, November 2, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. join the Wabanaki Allies working group in the Community Room to view and discuss the documentary film “The Eternal Song” about Indigenous spiritualities and connection to the earth and land. Pizza and drinks will be provided. To reserve your space and for us to have an accurate headcount for lunch, please RSVP to Marvin Ellison (mellison122@gmail.com) by October 31.

Fair Fancy Crafters invites you to join us for a “marathon crafting session” on Saturday, November 8, 9 am – 3 pm, 5th floor. Lunch (pizza?) will be provided, and all the materials to create at least 3 different projects will be available. You don’t have to be a great crafter to participate – just willing to lend a hand. We look forward to seeing you.

☛ Also, we hope any crafter who can’t join us for this session or on Thursday evenings is continuing to create beautiful creations and will consider dropping them off at the church for inclusion at the Holly Daze Bazaar.

If you have any questions, please contact Gin Gedney at 207-318-1581.

Fellowship Club, Tuesday, November 11, 6:15 pm, Guptill Hall (Save the date and note the change!). Lee Humiston, founder of the Maine Military Museum in South Portland, will offer a special Veteran’s Day program. Make a dinner reservation (turkey dinner or vegetarian option) for \$25 by Sunday, November 9, with Carolyn Clark at carolyn.clark353@gmail.com.

Monthly Game Night, Tuesday, November 18, 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.

HOLLY DAZE BAZAAR

The Annual Holly Daze Bazaar will take place on Saturday, December 6, 2025 from 9 am – 2 pm. Volunteers are needed for the following positions/days:

To sort donations: Thursday, 12/4

To set up areas: Thursday, 12/4 and Friday, 12/5

To staff areas: Saturday, 12/6

To prepare brunch: Friday, 12/5 and Saturday, 12/6

To tear down Bazaar: Saturday, 12/6

Questions? Ready to lend a hand? Please contact Lynne Lanctot at lanctotla74@gmail.com

Pre-Order a Holiday Wreath: To order a wreath for pick-up on Saturday, December 6, please email Deb Sandler (dhallsandler@gmail.com) the following information: Your name, email address, phone number, and the number of wreaths you want, along with the following details for each wreath ordered.

Wreath only: \$20

Wreath with bow: \$25

Wreath with bow, cones, berries: \$30

Wreath, bow, holiday decorations: \$35

Bow: Red or Holiday theme

Any special notation

MISSION AND SOCIAL WITNESS

South Portland Food Cupboard – October Food Drive: Bring in non-perishable food donations throughout the month. Place them in the boxes located in the Narthex and by the outside door to the church office. All items will then be delivered to the Food Cupboard. Thank you so much for helping our neighbors.

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

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!*

THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Starting this Wednesday, October 29, A Weekly Multi-Faith Vigil outside the Cumberland County Detention Center, at the corner of Congress and County Way, 2:45 – 3:15 pm: Community faith leaders will host these vigils to lament the harm inflicted on all those caught up in the immigration system, and to affirm the God-belovedness of all people. Each gathering 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.

South Portland Children's Choir Fall Concert, Saturday, November 1, 2 pm, in the sanctuary. A 30-minute, Halloween-themed concert by area grade school children.

Youth Service Corps, Sunday, November 9, 12 - 2 pm, St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 885 Shore Road in Cape Elizabeth: We'll spend our time together preparing trail mix snack bags for the Preble Street Food Security Hub and have pizza! Contact Amber Burks: amber@stalbansmaine.org OR 207-239-7159.

Next *Community Sing*, Sunday, November 16, 3:30 pm, HopeGateWay Church, 515 Woodford Street, Portland (2:45 pm for anyone looking to get organized around singing at demonstrations and public events): All-ages gathering of people from diverse settings singing together to find hope. Pass it along! Register or ask questions: Emilia Dahlin at emilia@emiliadahlin.com

LOOKING AHEAD: "Decolonizing and the Role of Faith Communities," online two-session course, Saturday, February 28 (9-12) and Saturday, March 7 (9-12): Offered by MESOM, the Maine School of Ministry of the Maine Conference, UCC. Co-sponsored by FCC UCC. Register by Feb. 14 at www.maineucc.org/mesom/.

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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."

Also, look for us on Facebook: facebook.com/fccucc

on Instagram: instagram.com/fccucc_s.portland

and on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/@FCCUCCSouthPortland





Sitting with Loved Ones

*Have you ever wished you were a better listener?
Or wondered how to help someone grieving?*

Join Pastor Steve after worship in Davidson Lounge for a three-part series that will help! Explore ideas and practices connected with visiting folks in their homes. Learn useful skills and considerations for being a Lay Visitor or for additional support as a caregiver.

October 26 Tools for Listening

November 9 Sitting with Grief

November 23 Tips for Visiting

Email Pastor Steve at steve@fccucc.org with any questions.

****Please note that participation in these sessions does not require a commitment to become a lay visitor.****