



The Power to Connect

World Communion Sunday October 5, 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.**



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 Kathy Sahrbeck and Kathy Cotter upstairs to our one-room classroom. This week's focus: *Holy Troublemaker*, Mr. Rogers.

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 *8 Poetic Waltzes (III. Tempo de valse lente)* Enrique Granados
Spanish Composer

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

THRESHOLD MOMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: If you are hungry, there is room at God's table.

Two: *If you are weary, there is a seat saved for you.*

All: If you dream of belonging, then we will practice belonging here.

One: From north, south, east, and west,

Two: *God invites us home.*

All: Let us worship our nourishing God.

***OPENING HYMN** *Bring Many Names* #6 - Brian Wren, British Composer

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

Creator God,

**We hear your invitation to love our neighbors as ourselves,
to live like we belong to one another.**

And yet, what is out of sight is often out of mind.

Forgive us for training our hearts to focus only on what is in front of us.

Forgive us for ignoring the tie that binds us to all of creation.

**Forgive us for assuming that your being with *us*
means you can't be with others too.**

Our gaze has been too narrow.

Open our hearts. Expand our understanding.

Help us to celebrate the many places you are present in this world.

Remind us of the ties that bind us to all of creation.

With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

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

PRAYERFUL PAUSE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*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 𐄂

Children are invited to follow teachers to Church School.

**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...

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Heather Hansen

One: Nourishing God, open up something new in us. Open up curiosity or hunger.

All: **Open up attentiveness or compassion.**

One: Open up the parts of our hearts that need your centering Word most.

All: **And then, like yeast in bread, may your love expand in us. We are listening. We are hopeful. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Romans 12:1-8

Heather Hansen

SECOND READING

Matthew 16:13-20

Debbie Grew

SERMON

Bring Many Names

Rev. Marisa Laviola

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM

Ahrirang

Korean Folk Song
arr: Robert DeCormier

STATEMENT OF FAITH**

One: We believe in a nourishing God, who provided manna in the wilderness and water from the rock.

Two: We believe in a with-us God, Jesus of Nazareth, who set tables for the lonely and ate with the forgotten.

Three: We believe in an expansive God—the wild Holy Spirit— meeting us in ritual, regardless of where we gather.

One: Trusting that good news, we come to the Table.

All: We pull up extra seats. We learn each other's names.

We bless the food. We tell the story.

We remember Christ's love, and we look for God in all of it.

We believe. Help our unbelief. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION – NEIGHBORS IN NEED Special Offering

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

WORLD COMMUNION CELEBRATION**

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Preparation – Prayers of the People

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.

We Tell the Story

We Bless the Bread

We Share the Meal You are invited to come forward by the center aisle to receive communion. All bread is gluten free. The juice is non-alcoholic. There are pre-wrapped communion elements for those who prefer, on the communion table.

Communion Music *Just as I Am, Without One Plea*

arr. Mark Hayes
American Composer

Responsive Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Holy God, every time we come to this Table, we look for you.
We come looking for welcome, looking for reasons to hope.

Two: And just as you promised, you have met us here.
What a gift! We may never be the same.

Three: So, as we prepare to leave this place,
may we go with the memories of this holy meal clinging to us.
May we remember what it felt like to be welcomed to your Table,

All: and may we welcome others with that same warmth.

One: May we remember what it felt like to have a meal where all were fed,

All: And may we work for a world where none are hungry.

Two: May we remember what it felt like to draw closer to you,

All: And may we continually seek you out with all that we do.

Three: Feeding God, week after week we look for you.

All: Week after week, you meet us here.

Thank you. May we never be the same. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *Let us Talents and Tongues Employ* Jamaican Folk Melody #316

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Down to the River to Pray* American Traditional, Arr. Mark Hayes

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WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team E, Rich Armstrong, captain.

The Mission Globe is lit in shared tribute for World Communion Day and in loving memory of Elizabeth Whited from her family: James, Victoria, Scott, Kirsten, Emmons and Gus.

Welcome to the Rev. Marisa Laviola, our guest preacher. Rev. Laviola is the conference minister of our Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ. The Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola began her minister here in October of 2022. She comes to us via Penn Central, where she served as Associate Conference Minister, and from Vermont and Massachusetts where she served as a local church pastor. She taught music at Asbury College in the 1980's before transitioning to a 20-year career in clinical psychology, prior to being ordained in 2009. She lives in Augusta with her spouse Carol.

****This morning's World Communion** liturgy is written by/adapted from Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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.

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.

OCTOBER @FCC UCC

TODAY - Poster-Making for our October Vigil: Sunday, October 5, Wright

Pavilion: Join Cindy Doucette and Jan Hamilton during Social Hour to make posters for our Oct. 12 Vigil. Bring your own ideas for signs; suggestions also available.

TODAY - Conversation with Guest Preacher, Rev. Marisa Laviola, Sunday,

October 5: Stop in at Social Hour for coffee or tea, then join our pastors and Rev. Laviola in Davidson Lounge to learn what's happening in our wider conference.

Defend our Democracy Vigil, Sunday, October 12, 11:30 am – 12 noon: Stand up against anti -constitutional and immoral acts. Join us outside the front entrance, facing Cottage Road, as we raise our voices and signs in defense of democracy.

Second Hour with Josh Caldwell, Natural Resources Council of Maine Climate & Clean Energy Program, Sunday, October 19, 11:30 am – 1 pm, Wright Pavilion:

Josh will speak on reducing climate change through a cleaner, better transportation system in Maine. Free lunch provided, no registration necessary. (No separate coffee hour). Organized by our Environmental Team.

Short Story Group Returns! Tuesday, October 21, 7 pm on

ZOOM: Join Pastor Steve as we discuss “The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. This story is a brief but creepy piece of psychological fiction for this Halloween season. Scan the QR code or see the Weekly Word to access the story.



Lay Visitation Workshops begin Sunday, October 26, 11:30 am – 1 pm, Davidson Lounge:

Join Pastor Steve for the first of three lay visitation workshops. Whether you seek tools to ease the work of caring for a loved one, or the skills to visit community members on behalf of a loving church, consider checking out series on lay visitation. Learn more in the *Weekly Word*.

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.

Neighbors in Need offering, Sunday, October 5: *See this week’s bulletin insert for details about this special offering.* There will be NIN offering envelopes at the Oct 5 worship service. You can donate online anytime at FCCUCC.org. Use the “Other line” and note “Neighbors in Need”.

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!*

State Street Winter Family Shelter Open House, Sunday, October 19, 2-4 pm:

Another season of comfort and care for homeless families begins at State Street Winter Family Shelter, Monday, November 17. Want to volunteer? If you have not seen the facility or want to refresh your memory from last year, drop by for a tour.

THE WIDER COMMUNITY

BTS Center Convocation - *Flipping the Script: Claiming our Voices, Telling Our Stories*, October 16 (10 am) – October 17 (3:30 pm) 2025, Maple Hill Farm Inn and Conference Center, Hallowell, ME + Online Companions. Details and registration at <https://thebtscenter.org/convocation-2025/>

Our Maine Conference UCC Annual Meeting, October 17-18, at Pilgrim Lodge.

Learn more and register at: <https://www.maineucc.org/annual-meeting/>

Youth Service Corps is back! Sunday, October 19, 12 – 2 pm – Coats and Boots for St. Elizabeth Pantry: Middle and High School youth from 12 participating churches – including FCC UCC - will gather once a month for a service project and fun time together. For more info contact Amber Burks at amber@stalbandsmaine.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):

MESOM, the Maine School of Ministry of the Maine Conference, UCC, is offering this Wabanaki REACH workshop online, *co-sponsored by FCC UCC*. The fee is \$50 per person (see revalisonpatton@fccucc.org for scholarship assistance). There's also an option to enroll for the entire 5-session course, "Organizing for Relationships and Repair."

☛ Register by February 14 at www.maineucc.org/mesom/.

WHAT'S UP?

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