

Just Courage
November 15, 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.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
SO. PORTLAND, ME

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A Note for Families / Folks of All Ages: Children are invited to follow their teachers upstairs for Church School following Sacred Play.

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

PRELUDE *For the Beauty of the Earth* C. Kocher,
Flute Ensemble arr. Thomas Quigley

WORDS OF WELCOME

THRESHOLD MOMENT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**
One: The way is long and winding,
ALL: But we do not walk it alone!
One: The goal is far from near,
ALL: But we will get there someday!
One: This world is far from perfect,
ALL: But God's love is perfect and freely given!
One: Then together, in the gleaming light of God,
let us carry on with courage!
ALL: Let us worship the God of love together!

***OPENING HYMN** *O For a World* No. 500

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**
God of forgiveness and grace,
Too often we close our eyes to your creation -
to the problems, to the people, the strangers and the friends.
Worse, we close our minds too often as well –
To the everyday miracles of creation,
to the joy of each new day,
to the gifts placed deep within us, and the gifts of one another.
Forgive us!
Open our hearts to receive the wonder of your surprising love,
to see the world as you do — with hope,
to serve the world as you know we can — with courage,
to witness to you in the world, and to pursue your love and justice! Amen.

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING THE PEACE
One: The peace of Christ be with you. **All: And also with you.**

***SUNG RESPONSE** *Siyahamba (We Are Marching)* South African Freedom Song
We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God. [Repeat two lines]
We are marching, marching; we are marching, marching;
We are marching in the light of God.

Siyahamb' e-ku-kha-neyen'-kwen-khos'
Siyahamb' e-ku-kha-neyen'-kwen-khos' [Repeat two lines]
Siyahamba, hamba, Siyahamba, hamba
Siyahamb' e-ku-kha-neyen'-kwen-khos'

SACRED PLAY

PRAYER FOR 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 Judges 4:1-7, Psalm 123

SERMON *Just Courage* Rev. Stephen Savage

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM *Let All Things Now Living* Welsh Folk Song,
Ring for Joy arr. Jason W. Krug

TESTIMONY *Where have you witnessed flourishing?* Christine Campbell

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER
Our Father-Mother in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kin-dom come; Your 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 Yours is the kin-dom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE *We Share a Hunger* Jill Kirsten Warner

We share a hunger, a hunger for justice in our world.
That all may find joy, all may find wholeness, all may find peace.
We share a hunger, a hunger to feel the light of Christ
shining through us, shining on all, bringing God's reign.

OFFERING INVITATION

Help us to live God's love and justice. You can make a secure gift by scanning the QR code, by going to fccucc.org and clicking on "Donate," or by adding your contribution to the box at the back of the sanctuary.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

BLESSING OF OUR GIFTS

***CLOSING HYMN** *For Those with a Vision* No. S-5

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Gavotte from Symphony No 4* William Boyce,
Flute Ensemble arr. Sondra Tucker

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WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team D, Scott Berry, captain.

Recording: Gratitude to Alex Ratta for recording our worship this morning.

Cover Graphic designed by FCCUCC member Bryan Wiggins.

The flowers on the altar are in loving memory of Bill Brownell from his wife, Elaine Brownell, son John and Sarah Brownell, son Andrew and Liz Brownell, and grandchildren, Molly, Sam, Will, and Nora.

**** The Prayer for Forgiveness** is adapted from a prayer by Gill Le Fevre, and shared on medium.com.

WEEKLY @ FCCUCC

Bible Study every Tuesday, 12:30 - 1:30 pm in Davidson Lounge: Explore the scripture from the past Sunday, led by Pastor Steve.

Prayer Shawls, every Wednesday, 1 - 3 pm, in Davidson Lounge: New and experienced knitters welcome. Bring needles size 9, 10, or 11, and your own yarn, or check out the church yarn supply. Questions? Lynne: lanctotla74@gmail.com.

Meetinghouse Choir rehearses on Wednesdays, 6:15 pm - 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.

Handbell Rehearsal every Wednesday, 4:45 pm in the Sanctuary.
Anyone who would like to join the ringers this year should contact handbell director Sharon Potter at handbells@fccucc.org to arrange a time to meet.

COMING UP @ FCCUCC

TODAY: LGBTQ+ Rights Vigil, from 11:30 am – 12 pm: on the front porch and steps. Get your coffee and bring it out. There will be signs available for everyone. We need your presence, your voice and your spirit to let our community know how our church stands on this issue. Human Rights are Equal Rights for all.

TODAY: Book Discussion - *The Land is Not Empty,* Sunday, November 15, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm, in Davidson Lounge: The Wabanaki Allies working group is sponsoring a book discussion, facilitated by Judy Kimball and Deborah Tomblyn. The book is available at Nonesuch Books. Mention FCCUCC for a discounted price.

TODAY: Parents of Adult Children, Sunday, November 15, 6:00 – 7:30 pm, Davidson Lounge: A relaxed, supportive, safe, and confidential space to share and listen to each other's joys and concerns at this stage of parenting. No judgment, no advice-giving -- just a time to build friendships and mutual support, wherever you are on this part of the parenting journey.

Game Night, Tuesday, November 17, 7:00 PM: Please join us for Game Night. We have both old and new games and you also may bring any game of your choice to play. We would love to see you there.

Youth Corps Service, Sunday, November 22, 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm: Make trail mix at Preble Street Food Security Hub, 75 Darling Ave, South Portland. RSVP to amber@stalbansmaine.org by November 19.

MISSION AND SOCIAL WITNESS

State Street Family Winter Shelter, Portland will open for the season on November 15: They are looking for volunteers to help host, with evening and overnight shifts. Sign-ups coming soon. For more information about joining the FCC team of volunteers, contact Walter Kimball: whkimball77@gmail.com

Children's Clothes Closet is open to the public!
2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 11 am - 1 pm; 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 12 - 2 pm.

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. Scan the code on the bags and the refunds will automatically be donated to our mission team. Thank you!

Pre-Order Your Christmas Wreaths: It's time to pre-order your wreath(s) for pickup at the Holly Daze Bazaar on Saturday, December 5:

Please email Deb Sandler (dhallsandler@gmail.com) with the following information: Your name, email address, phone number, and the number of wreaths. Costs: Wreath only: $20; Wreath with bow: $25; Wreath with bow, cones, and berries: $30; Wreath, bow/cones/berries and holiday decor: $35. Please share whether you'd like a red or holiday theme bow and any special notes.

WIDER COMMUNITY

Community Singing, This Sunday, November 15, 4 - 5:15 pm
Hope Gateway, 515 Woodford Street, Portland: Join in some playful and heartfelt singing. All ages welcome. No experience necessary. All songs are smple and taught on the spot by ear. Community singing is not performance, it is a shared experience. If you have a simple song to share, bring it along! Questions? Contact Emilia Dahlin: emilia@emiliadahlin.com

***The Meadow We Weave,* the world's first seagrass Ceilidh (pronounced KAY-lee), Saturday, November 21, State Street Church (Chapel Hall), 159 State Street, Portland, 5:30 - 9 pm:** Passamaquoddy drumming, live music, dancing, storytelling, and good food, in honor of seagrass meadows! See the flier for details.

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".

Check out our Friends and Members Directory – now available online!

Everyone in the print directory has been invited by email to create an account. Please create a username and password. To log back in, go to https://fccucc301.breezechms.com/. (For easy future access, bookmark this link.)

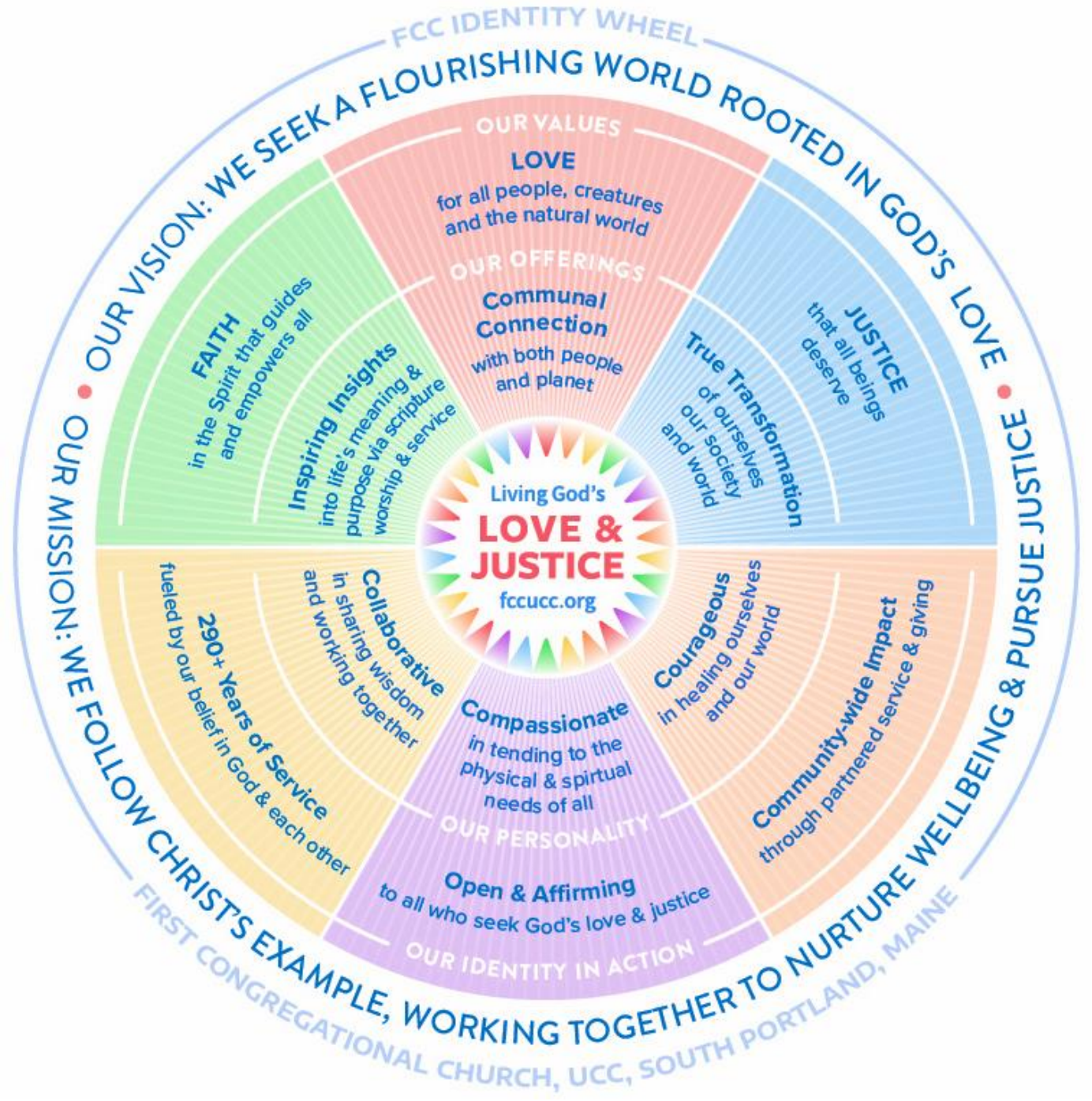
Email Kat at communicate@fccucc.org with questions, or to add your contact info!

Find us, like, and follow us on social media. Now on Substack! @FCCUCC

It's GIVING SEASON:
We seek a flourishing world for all, rooted in God's love!

How can we help God's world to flourish? At FCC, we believe it takes collaboration, compassion and courage! So, we are building partnerships, caring for each other, and speaking up for and *with* our neighbors. We are singing, praying, marching, tending, connecting, learning, and growing together. In ways both simple and bold, FCC is cultivating just and loving community, in and beyond South Portland.

We invite you to partner with us, as we do all that. *Watch for a pledge card in the mail* or find one in the pews. Then please prayerfully consider making a pledge of financial commitment to FCC, for 2027. *Help God's world to flourish.* Thank you!



COBALT
Collaborative for Bioregional Action Learning & Transformation

team zostera
Casco Bay's Seagrass Stewards

Awakening the Spirit of Place, Together.

Join the Race to Save Maine's Seagrass Meadows

The

MEADOW WE WEAVE

THE WORLD'S FIRST SEAGRASS CEILIDH

MUSIC · DANCE · COMMUNITY · RESTORATION

NOVEMBER 21, 2026
5:30 – 9:00 PM
STATE STREET CHURCH CHAPEL HALL
159 STATE STREET, PORTLAND, MAINE

Live Music & Ceilidh Dancing
The Zostera Revival Band
(Tough End String Band & Friends with Ceilidh Caller Alan Furth) ·

Traditional Passamaquoddy Drumming & Song
Cipelahq Ehpicik
(Thunderbird Women)

Guest Emcee
Dwayne Tomah
Passamaquoddy Language Keeper

Special Guest - Standup Comedy
Geo Soctomah Neptune

Presenting Chef
Barton Seaver
A Taste of the Eelgrass Meadows

Music · Culture · Community · A Healthier Ocean

FOR TICKETS, please scan to view event website

Explore · Learn · Get Involved



THANKSGIVING BASKETS



Through YOU as food donors and organized by Community Crisis Ministries (CCM) and the Missons & Social Witness Team (MSWT), FCCUCC is again providing bountiful Thanksgiving baskets for families referred through South Portland General Assistance, Cape Elizabeth General Assistance, and the South Portland School System. We expect 20 baskets to be requested. Here's how this works:

- YOU pick up a full or partial shopping list for some or all of a Thanksgiving Basket on Sundays, November 8 or 15, before or after worship, in the Narthex (sanctuary entry) or Wright Pavillion (Coffee Hour)!
- YOU buy the specified items and return them during the weeks of November 8 or 15 to the Church office or on Sunday, November 22 to the altar for worship!
- WE provide gift cards for recipients to purchase their chosen main course – turkey, ham, or whatever – and enthusiastically accept donations! Donate online, or with a check payable to FCCUCC, memo "Thanksgiving Baskets".
- TOGETHER we celebrate your generosity during worship on November 22!
- WE assemble the donated food into baskets after worship on Sunday, November 22. Helpers welcome!
- RECIPIENTS provided by our community partners come to the church to pick up their basket the afternoon of Sunday, November 22!