



Flipped
Epiphany

New Ways
of Seeing
This
Epiphany

Born Anew February 1, 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 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

Mellow Twilight

Florence B. Price

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

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 renews us,

One: The One who loves us without end.

All: With joyful hearts, let us worship God.

***OPENING HYMN**

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

#57

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

Merciful and loving God: when we are ungrateful, remind us of your grace. When we are oblivious, open our eyes. When we are harsh, gentle our spirit. When we are apathetic, show us your suffering children. When we demean ourselves, whisper that we are created in your image. When we lose hope, lead us into a new day. So shape us, and turn us around, until we live with blessing and grace. 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** *Guide My Feet* African American Spiritual 

Guide my feet, while I run this race. [3 times]

For I don't want to run this race in vain.

Stand by me, while I run this race...

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Bruce Martell

One: Jesus invites us to look at the world – and God – from a fresh angle.

All: Holy One, open our eyes, upend our assumptions and prepare us to envision Your world transformed by love and justice.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:1-16

SERMON

Born Anew

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM

O Taste and See

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Meetinghouse Choir

OFFERING INVITATION

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

SUNG RESPONSE

Dream God's Dream

Sirchio

**Dream God's Dream! Holy Spirit, help us dream
of a world where there is justice and where everyone is free
to build and grow and love, and to simply have enough.
The world will change, when we dream God's dream.**

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

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.

The Story is Told

The Gifts are Blessed

The Meal is Shared

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 Anthem

Believe Your Eyes†

Thomas Keesecker

Meetinghouse Choir

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

Christ in Every Heart: For this moment, this meal, this gathering, we give you thanks! Now, send us out to live as changed people, because we have been touched by the living God and cannot remain the same. Enable much by us and encourage many through us. So may we feed others as you have fed us. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

We are People on a Journey

#315

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team C, Bill Campbell, captain.

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

Cover Photo by Dries Buytaert, ©Creative Commons.

The flowers on the altar are in celebration of my amazing Son, Scott Thatcher, whose birthday was January 27, and in memory of my wonderful Dad, Jack Roddy, whose birthday was February 1. Happy Birthday, Scott! Love, Mom and Scott B.

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, contact Danna Wiggins at dannawig2@gmail.com. To dedicate the lighting of the church steeple, please contact the church office at 799-3361 or email office@fccucc.org.

**** This morning's liturgy** is adapted from content written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

☰ **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 the Indigo Arts Alliance: <https://indigoartsalliance.me/>. You are invited to contribute, as well. Mark your contribution as "Royalty for Spirituals." *Thank you.*

† **This morning's communion anthem, *Believe Your Eyes***, is a new song written as an act of solidarity with the #EyesNotLies campaign launched by MARCH (Multifaith Antiracism, Change and Healing). It is a musical call to faithful resistance, truth-telling and collective courage. Many faith communities are singing this song this Sunday.

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

Today: Annual Budget Meeting, Sunday, February 1, 11:15 am: All are invited and encouraged to attend this important gathering in the life of our congregation. Learn about the financial health of the church. Bring your questions. Members will be asked to approve the 2026 budget. Our finances fuel our ministry, and all members have a role in stewarding those resources. So, mark your calendars and join us. Thank you!

Fellowship Club, Tuesday, February 3, 6:15 pm: Chicken pot pie dinner and entertainment by the Peter Dunphey Trio. Email carolyn.clark353@gmail.com for reservations by February 1 at noon. \$25 per person, for more info email blockwood@portlandresearch.com. Rides available.

Retirement Celebration, Sunday, February 8, gather after church in Guptill Hall to celebrate Kathy Sahrbeck's retirement.

Human Rights Vigil, Sunday, February 8, 11:15 am - 11:45 am Join us on the front steps as we stand together to support the inherent rights and freedoms for all people including: Immigrants, black and brown people, women, and all those targeted by ICE.

Women's Spirit Circle of FCCUCC, Tuesday, February 10, 7 pm, Community Room (5th floor) A welcoming, sacred space where we can slow down, breathe deeply, and connect with one another through laughter, reflection, and soulful conversation. Come just as you are. All women, including LGBTQIA+ women, are welcome. For more info, contact Nancy Brajtbord: nancy.brajtbord@gmail.com Or Pat Thatcher: pat.thatcher123@gmail.com

New Member Sunday, February 15 We will welcome our newest members into covenant community during worship. Are you thinking about joining the church? Please speak to Pastor Alison or email her at revalisonpatton@fccucc.org.

Parents of Adult Children group, Sunday, February 15, 6:00 - 7:30 pm All parents of adult children (over 18 years old) are welcome to join us. For more info contact FCC UCC member Jill Saxby at revjillsaxby@gmail.com.

Chop and Chat Group, Tuesday, February 16 at 5:00 pm Frozen meals will be made in Guptill Hall and distributed to local families in need, to volunteer or know someone in need, contact Kathy Sahrbeck at kathrynsme@yahoo.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

Weekly Multi-Faith Vigil, Wednesday, February 4, 2:45 – 3:15 pm

New location: now held at Congress Square Park (the intersection of Congress St. & High St. in Portland, ME 04101). Check in weekly to find all details here: tinyurl.com/pwm-vigil.

Community Sing, Sunday, February 8, 3:30 pm at HopeGateWay, 515 Woodford Street, Portland: A monthly gathering of people from around Greater Portland who want to cultivate hope by singing together. Founded by musician-turned-community-organizer Emilia Dahlin. Sign up to learn about future events or opt-in to the Response Team to sing at resistance and change events at emilia@emiliadahlin.com.

Youth Service Corps February Meeting, Sunday, February 8, 12 – 2 pm

Youth are invited to join with youth from around the area on Sunday February 8th, from 12 - 2 pm at First Congregational Church in South Portland, to assemble cleaning kits for Maine Needs. A pizza lunch will be provided at no cost! If you or your young ones have questions, please contact Pastor Steve at steve@fccucc.org.

Coastal Resilience Overlay Zone Workshop, Tuesday, February 10, 6:30 pm

City Council Workshop to discuss the proposed Coastal Resilience Overlay Zone (CROZ). WHERE: City Hall (25 Cottage Rd.), Council Chambers. WHO: All members of the public. Join members of FCC UCC's Environmental Task Force who will be attending; help to shape a climate-resilient future in our community!



**"What is Mine to Do?"
Unraveling Your Call This Lent
Saturday, February 21, 10 am - 12:30 pm**

Do you ever feel pulled in many directions, uncertain how best to use your time and talents, given so much need in the world? Do you feel weary, paralyzed, or worried that you are inadequate to the task? Join us for a morning of reflection on the particular ways God calls each of us to use our gifts and graces.

Using a variety of fun and engaging tools, you will be invited to explore your operating values, consider what tugs at your heart and name what gives you energy - to "knit together" the threads of your call. Inspired in part by our November *Changemaker* series, this mini-retreat will provide space for each of us to contemplate how and where we could make a difference this season - in ways that contribute to our flourishing, and not to burnout.

Led by Rev. Alison Patton and Rev. Steve Savage.

RSVP: revalisonpatton@fccucc.org.

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WHAT'S UP?

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**Your positive reviews on social media help others to find us.
Write a review on Google (Thanks!). Like and follow us:**

