



Epiphany Season

Let's Talk About Sabbath February 2, 2025

**Welcome to the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
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: We begin worship together. After the Passing of the Peace, young people grades K-8 are invited to follow teachers Heather Hansen and Carrie Skeffington upstairs to our one-room classroom. This week's focus: *Holy Troublemaker* Valarie Kaur.

Also, 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

Here I Am to Worship

Tim Hughes

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Revs. Alison J. B. Patton and Stephen Savage

THRESHOLD MOMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP*

One: Welcome to the Sabbath -

All: A day for deep breathing and fresh seeing.

One: Here, we pause and appreciate all that God has made;

All: Here we praise the First Artist and drink in God's goodness;

One: Here we hold space to soak up the wonder

All: Like oil for weary muscles and water for our parched souls.

One: Today is for resting, regrouping, and relishing

All: Until our tank is refilled, and our resolve is restored.

One: On Monday, we are called again to tend to a hurting world.

All: This is hard and holy work.

One: Which is why it's essential that we take this time.

So come! Together, let us turn our hearts to a loving God.

***OPENING HYMN**

Here In this Place (Gather Us In)

#250

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

Sabbath-Keeping God: On the seventh day, you set aside time to savor your creation. Once every seven days, you urge us to do the same: to notice You and marvel at your handiwork. When our drive to produce or our need to *fix* consumes us, when we are too anxious about tomorrow to notice what You are up to today, forgive us. When the systems we are a part of deny us or our neighbors access to rest and renewal, help us. Teach us to forge communities in which all have the freedom to rest and room to breathe. So may we keep your Sabbath holy. 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 their teachers to Church School during the song and return for communion.

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

Lynne Lanctot

One: Let us prepare our hearts to hear a Word from God.

All: We turn our attention to the one they called Jesus:

SUNG

First Born of Mary (twice through)

Choir and Congregation

First born of Mary, provocative preacher,

itinerant teacher, outsiders' choice

Jesus inspires and disarms and confuses

Whoever he chooses to hear his voice.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 6:1-13

SERMON

Let's Talk About Sabbath

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM

We Shall Walk Through the Valley In Peace

PASTORAL PRAYER

SUNG RESPONSE:

Hear Our Prayer, O God

Whelpton

Hear our prayer, O God. Hear our prayer, O God.

Incline your ear to us and grant us your peace.

OFFERING INVITATION

You can make a secure online 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. *See details below re: special appeals.* ☰** *Thank you!*



MUSICAL INTERLUDE

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Preparation

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 Music

At the Table of the World

Ron Klusmeier

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of Grace, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table, by granting us the presence of Christ. Now, strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another and send us out to live the love and justice of Jesus. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

O God of Every Nation

#517

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Open My Eyes That I May See

Clara H. Scott

WORSHIP NOTES

****Emergency Appeal – Response to L.A. Fires:** To support the long-term recovery of areas affected by the wildfires in Los Angeles, CA, donate by check or online, with “wildfire recovery” in the memo. Gifts will be forwarded to the Disaster Ministries of the UCC.

☰ **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. Donate by check or online, with “Royalty for Spirituals” in the memo. *Thank you.*

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

Live Stream: Thank you to Alex Ratta for managing our livestream this and each Sunday.

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 business@fccucc.org.

CARE AND COMMUNITY

Need a Nametag? Nametags help us to welcome and connect with each other. Are you new to FCC, or do you need a replacement nametag? Send an email request to Marie Jordan at wooddk5555@gmail.com, with your name as you would like it to appear, and pronouns if you’d like to include them. *You don’t need to be a member to have a nametag!*

Need Comfort Food? We are in the middle of flu season! If you or someone you know is feeling under the weather - sick, or sad or caring for a loved one and just needing a break, Chop and Chat and Prayers and Provisions are ready to lend a little care and comfort! We have ready-to-heat frozen meals and hot meals to share. Contact Kathy Sahrbeck at outreach@fccucc.org.

WEEKLY AT FCC UCC

Bible Study, every Tuesday, 12:30 - 1:30 pm in Davidson Lounge: Join Rev. Steve Savage for a wide-ranging conversation about the previous Sunday's scripture reading.

Meetinghouse Choir rehearses on Wednesdays, 6:15 – 8pm. 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 & Handchimes rehearse on alternating Wednesdays, 4:30 pm – chimes/ 4:45 pm – bells in Wright Pavilion. Questions? Contact bell choir director Sharon Potter: handbells@fccucc.org.

COMING UP AT FCC UCC

TODAY: Valentine Card Factory, Sunday, February 2 in Guptill Hall during coffee hour: We're all about fostering connection within our community, and we'd love to have kids of all ages (and adults too!) help create Valentine's Day cards for those who could use a little extra love. Whether they're at home, in the hospital, or just in need of a cheerful reminder that their church cares, your handmade cards will make a big difference. No crafting skill or materials needed; we supply it all, including googly eyes! Hosted by our Care and Connections Team.

TODAY: Wabanaki Allies Group meeting, Sunday, February 2, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Laity Room. If you're new to FCCUCC or have not yet attended our gatherings, please join us. All you need is a curiosity and a passion for justice.

Fair Fancy Crafters Gathering, Thursday, February 6, from 5pm - 7pm in the Laity Room. No special talents needed because we all teach each other. So, please join us. Remember: Fair Fancy Crafters welcome crafters of all levels as we will teach, supply, guide, support, and laugh as we create. No matter your level of crafting, you are welcome here!

Sound Bath, Reprise! Tuesday, February 11, 6:30 – 7:30 pm: Doris Hall of Read See Feel will be returning to offer another Sound Bath in February. Come relax to the sounds of wind chimes, rain sticks, and singing bowls. We'll gather in Guptill Hall if needed, so there are no space limitations this time. If you missed January, or if you came and want to come again, you are welcome! Please RSVP Rev. Alison Patton at revalisonpatton@fccucc.org.

Game Night, Tuesday, February 18, 7-8:30 pm in Wright Pavilion. Please join us! Questions? Contact Kathy Sahrbeck at outreach@fccucc.org (799-3361 #112)

New Member Sunday, February 23: We will welcome several folks into membership during Sunday worship. Interested in joining FCC UCC? Contact Rev. Alison Patton at revalisonpatton@fccucc.org.

Short Story Group, Sunday, February 23: We will gather in Davidson Lounge for the next installment of our Short Story Group. This month's story: "The Baboon War" by Nnedi Okorafor. Listen online to the podcast *Lavar Burton Reads*, episode 2/6/2018 or find it in the short story collection *Kabu Kabu*, by the author.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Movie Screening and Discussion: The Singing Revolution, Sunday, February 9, 4-6 pm, HopeGateWay Church, 515 Woodford Street, Portland: How do we respond, locally, collectively, and proactively, to what is happening in our country? How do we turn this crisis into an opportunity to develop shared language and common frameworks for non-violent, creative action that inspires others? What skills do we need to cultivate so that our efforts result in lasting, resilient communities - ready and able to respond?

Come watch *The Singing Revolution*, a documentary about what happened in Estonia that led to their freedom and the downfall of the Soviet Union. The movie will be followed by a shared conversation about how we might use creative and non-violent tactics in our country today to stand for justice and the worthiness of all humans.

MISSION CORNER

State Street Winter Family Shelter: FCC UCC is part of a coalition of congregations working together to provide hospitality for unhoused families staying at the Winter Family Shelter at State Street Church, UCC. If you would like to learn more or volunteer, contact Walter Kimball at whkimball77@gmail.com.

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

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WHAT'S UP? Want to stay in the loop? Make sure you are on our email list! 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



OFFICIAL CALL TO A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

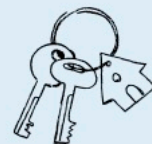
The members of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, are hereby called to meet on **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.** in the sanctuary and via Zoom for the following purposes:

- I. To receive and act upon the 2025 budget proposed by the Church Council.
- II. To hear and act upon any other business which may properly come before the church.

YOUTH SERVICE CORPS EVENT



**SUNDAY FEB 9TH
12:00-2:00 PM**



**LUNCH AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
132 AUBURN ST, PORTLAND
THEN ...
FURNITURE FRIENDS WAREHOUSE TOUR
15 SAUNDERS WAY, WESTBROOK**

**PLEASE RSVP BY THU FEB 6 TO
AMBER BURKS, YOUTH SERVICE
CORPS COORDINATOR, AT
AMBER@STALBANSMAINE.ORG**

