



Flipped
Epiphany

New Ways
of Seeing
This
Epiphany

Deep Water February 8, 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 Time for All God's Children, 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

Shenandoah

American Folk Song,
arr. Sondra Tucker

Flute Ensemble

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

THRESHOLD MOMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We've come to worship God,

**All: Who makes streams flow from rock,
and turns the parched earth into springs of water,**

One: God, who sends the rain from heaven,
and makes the wilderness blossom and flourish.

**All: As the deer thirsts for flowing streams,
so we thirst for You, O God.**

One: Come, let's worship our life-giving God,
who pours out living water on all who thirst.

***OPENING HYMN**

I Have No Bucket and the Well is Deep

#394

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

One: God of living water, we confess the dryness of our lives:
the brittle words we have thought and spoken . . .
the relationships that are crumbling . . .
the arid perspective that centers on self . . .
the cracked and jagged edges of our world . . .

ALL: Hear our prayers, O Christ, and rain down your mercy upon us.

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...

TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Bruce Lockwood

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 4:5-30, 39-42

SERMON

Deep Water

Rev. Stephen Savage

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM

Wade in the Water

Traditional Spiritual,
arr. Greg Gilpin

Meetinghouse Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

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

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

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

From our Environmental Working Group:

Claiming Your Call for a Climate-Changed Word: A 3-Day Retreat and year-long community of practice. Retreat: Thursday, May 14 at 10:30am – Saturday, May 16 at 12:30 pm, Schoodic Institute, Winter Harbor, Maine.

FCC UCC participated in this program in 2024-2025. It culminated in the Toss the Tanks community forum that FCC UCC hosted last spring. Now we are looking for a *new* team of three to attend the retreat with Pastor Alison, and to join us in identifying another project we'd like to undertake, to live out our environmental commitments in the coming year.

Curious to learn more? Ask Tim Honey, Jill Saxby or Aryn Whittaker about their experience last year.

- Details at <https://thebtscenter.org/claimingyourcall/>
- *Our group application is due March 16.*
- There is a sliding fee and scholarship support available. See Pastor Alison if you are interested.

THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Community Sing, Today, 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.

THE WIDER COMMUNITY, CONT.

Youth Service Corps February Meeting, Today, 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!

Weekly Multi-Faith Vigil, Wednesday, February 11, 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.



"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?

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."

Your positive reviews on social media help others to find us.

Write a review on Google (Thanks!). Like and follow us:

