



*Unraveling  
the Good News  
Lent 2026*

## **Lent Week 2: Mission Trip Sunday Crafting Our Faith by Hand March 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**

*Klokkeklang Op. 54 No. 6*

Edvard Grieg

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

**THRESHOLD MOMENT**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP\*\***

Jon Lawton

One: Friends, we know what God desires of us:

**All: That we do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with God.**

One: We gather this morning to remind each other about that,

**All: To remember that now is always the right time to do these things.**

One: So with thanks in our hearts, let us worship God.

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*Jesu, Jesu*

#459

The choir will sing the first verse. The congregation is invited to rise, on your feet or in your heart, to sing verses 2-4.

**UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

**Holy God, Creator of all that is, Donor of Grace, and Giver of Life:**

**Hear our prayer.**

**There are rips in the fabric of our lives that separate us**

**From one another and from You.**

**We confess that we have allowed those gaps to grow,**

**For fear of admitting our part in the separation,**

**For fear of being rejected when we reach out.**

**You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships,**

**To a wholeness with each other and with You.**

**Mend us, we pray, and craft us into new creations**

**Through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**PRAYERFUL PAUSE**

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



## 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**      *We Gather at Your Table, Lord*      Walter Ehret  
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**      *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*      #467

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**      Walter Kimball

## BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE**      *Sweet Hour of Prayer*      Mark Hayes

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SAVE THE DATE:

**Mission Trip Fundraising Dinner and Auction: Saturday evening, May 30**

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## WORSHIP NOTES

**Thank you** to Stephanie Greenland for creating the mission trip slideshow.

**Thank you** to this morning's ushers: Team I, Richard Parker, captain.

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

**\*\* This morning's Call to Worship** and Prayer for Forgiveness were written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

**Cover Design** by our Community Engagement Coordinator, Kat Roderick.

**The Mission Globe is lighted** today In Loving Memory of Gale and Marty Bupp, Keith Bupp, and Patricia and Joseph A Meko by Joe and Jennifer Meko.

**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](mailto: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 [office@fccucc.org](mailto:office@fccucc.org).

☰ **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.*

## WEEKLY @ FCC UCC

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

**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](mailto:dmclure@fccucc.org).

**Handbell Choir rehearses every Wednesday, 4:45 pm in Wright Pavilion.** To ring or learn more about the choir, please contact bell choir director Sharon Potter: [handbells@fccucc.org](mailto:handbells@fccucc.org).

## COMING UP @ FCC UCC

**Fellowship Club, Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 6:15 pm:** Victoria Hugo-Vidal, the Maine Millennial, from the *Maine Sunday Telegram* joins us. Lasagna dinner. \$25 per person. Rides available. Reservations: [carolyn.clark353@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.clark353@gmail.com) by March 3. Info [blockwood@portlandresearch.com](mailto:blockwood@portlandresearch.com).

**Women's Spirit Circle, Tuesday, March 10, 7 pm, Community Room:** Come just as you are to this welcoming, sacred space where we can connect with one another. All women, including LGBTQIA+, are welcome. Info: Nancy Brajtbord: [nancy.brajtbord@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.brajtbord@gmail.com) or Pat Thatcher: [pat.thatcher123@gmail.com](mailto:pat.thatcher123@gmail.com)

**Parents of Adult Children group, Sunday, March 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](mailto:revjillsaxby@gmail.com).

## MISSION AND SOCIAL WITNESS

**Women's Rights Vigil: Poster Making Session: Sunday, March 8, Vigil: Sunday, March 15, 11:15 am** Join us on the front steps to advocate for all women (Cis and LGBTQ) as well as the victims of Jeffrey Epstein and other high-profile figures. Jamien Jacob and Lauren Chritten will sing with us as we stand together for this important cause. Questions: Cindy Doucette at [cbdoucette@gmail.com](mailto:cbdoucette@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!*

**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](mailto:dannawig2@gmail.com)

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS** are available on our website ([www.fccucc.org](http://www.fccucc.org)) under the GROW heading, or by calling the church office at 799-3361. Completed applications need to be returned to the church office by March 22. Direct questions to [steve@fccucc.org](mailto:steve@fccucc.org). Scholarship Sunday is scheduled for May 17.

## THE WIDER COMMUNITY

**Singing Resistance! Sunday May 1, 1:00 - 2:00 pm, at Monument Square in Portland:** Local songsters will teach and lead a selection of songs from the *Resistance Songbook* developed in Minneapolis. This is part of a national movement to stand in resistance against breaking our Constitution by raising voices in song.

**Weekly Multi-Faith Vigil at Congress Square Park** at the corner of Congress St. and High St., every Wednesday from 2:45 – 3:15 pm: Community faith leaders host these vigils to lament the harm inflicted on all those caught up in the immigration system, and to affirm the God-belovedness of all people. We sing, pray and hold silence to honor the worth of all people, and to hold up everyone involved - those detained, officers, and our entire community. Check in weekly to find all details: [tinyurl.com/pwm-vigil](https://tinyurl.com/pwm-vigil).

**BTS Center Lenten Book Study: *Speak with the Earth and It Will Teach You: A Field Guide to the Bible* by Daniel Cooperrider - 5 Tuesdays online, February 24 - March 31, 4-5:30 pm.** offered by the BTS Center. Details at: <https://thebtscenter.org/bookstudy-lent2026/>

**Women in Harmony Benefit Concert, Saturday, March 21, 3:00 p.m., St. Albans Episcopal Church, 885 Shore Rd., Cape Elizabeth.** To support community partner organization, Maine Needs, <https://www.maineneeds.org> Details at <https://wihmaine.org> or ask Jill Saxby (WIH member) [revjillsaxby@gmail.com](mailto:revjillsaxby@gmail.com)

**FIELD TRIP to see *The Malaga Ship* at the Maine Maritime Museum, Bath, ME, Sunday, March 22:** A creative team has joined forces with Antonio Rocha to create a documentary film about the Malaga Ship. They will launch this project on March 22, with a special live performance of the play at 3:30 pm.

Beginning at 2:30 pm, guests are invited to enjoy free admission to Maine Maritime Museum's exhibits, including Re|Sounding, a powerful new exhibition centering Indigenous and Black perspectives on Maine's maritime past.

A carpool will leave at 1:30 pm (for those who want to see the exhibit). The group will return at about 6:30 pm. Contact Marvin Ellison at [mellison122@gmail.com](mailto:mellison122@gmail.com) if you are interested in carpooling.

**Sunday, March 8, 11:30am**  
**LUNCH AND LEARN**

**With Martha Stein of:**



Learn about the work of Hope House, an organization in Portland housing asylum seekers and providing support and resources especially during the recent ICE raids.

Meet in the Wright Pavilion

## **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](http://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:**

