



everything [in] between

faith & works



March 16, 2025

No matter who you are, or where you are on
life's journey, you are welcome here.

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST 



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.

A Note for Families / Folks of All Ages: We begin worship together. After the Time for All Ages, young people grades K-8 are invited to follow the teachers upstairs to our one-room classroom. This week's Lesson: *Faith and Works*.

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

Prelude Lent

Alphonse Schmitt

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Revs. Alison J. B. Patton and Stephen Savage

THRESHOLD MOMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP*

One: Come as you are.

All: Whether our faith runs deep or feels like it has run dry?

One: Yes! Whether you know every scripture or none at all,

All: If we have calloused hands and live our faith through good works

One: Yes! Or if you kneel at God's feet, with a million hungry questions,

All: We come as we are.

One: Yes! This is God's house.

All: None are turned away.

One: All are welcome here.

***OPENING HYMN**

There's A Wideness in God's Mercy

#72

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

God of Grace, We long to do the "right" thing, to make the "right" choice, to stand on the "right" side of the dividing line. In our earnestness, we sometimes miss the sacred right in front of us. We sometimes miss opportunities to practice love. Teach us how to let go of perfection. Show us how to lead with grace and love, over anything else. For even more than we desire to be right, we desire to be close to you. Show us the way. Amen.

PRAYERFUL PAUSE

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

SUNG RESPONSE

Jesus, Remember Me

Taizé

**Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kin-dom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kin-dom.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

SUNG RESPONSE

We Will Take What You Offer

Iona Community

**We will take what you offer, we will live by your word;
We will love one another and be fed by you, Lord.
We will take what you offer, we will live by your word;
We will love one another and be fed by you, Lord.**

TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

John Grew

One: God meets us in between—

All: at the edge of the water, in the middle of the wilderness, at the start of
something new, on the fringes of faith.

One: We are not alone. God is all around.

All: Let us listen for the God of everything.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:38-42

ANTHEM

Motherless Child

African American Spiritual 

SERMON

A Long Way From Home

Rev. Jeff Logan

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE


PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

**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: Royalties for Spirituals.* 
Thank you!



MUSICAL INTERLUDE

BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

STATEMENT OF FAITH **

**We believe in a Christ who
teaches, sees, affirms, and celebrates all of who we are.
We believe in a Christ who
invites us to use our gifts for good
and celebrates every step we take in that direction.
We believe in a Christ who
understands our anxieties and is gentle with our concerns.
And we believe in a Christ who
looks at us with undiluted love.
The world will try to rank, rate, and declare winners,
but we know love has no limit.
So with God's help, may we nurture our faith
and do good work. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN**

Ministry and Presence

Bulletin Insert

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Behold the Savior

Henry Purcell

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to the Reverend Jeff Logan, our guest preacher, for sharing a word with us this morning. Jeff is the Executive Director and a co-pastor at Grace-Street Ministry in Portland: <https://www.gracestreetministry.org>

The flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of Lou Allen Nichols and Laurence S. Allen, Sr. by their daughter, Donna Allen.

▣ **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. We are now donating funds to the *Indigo Arts Alliance*. You are invited to contribute, as well. Donate by check or online, with "Royalty for Spirituals" in the memo. *Thank you.*

Lenten Theme: This season's theme, graphics, art images and some elements of the liturgy were created by A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org and used by permission.

Cover Art: *Toward Jerusalem* by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman. Digital painting. Used by permission.

****Liturgy** is adapted from content created by Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org.

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team B, Peggy Murray, captain.

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.

WEEKLY @ 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 dmclure@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 Guest Preacher & Affordable Housing Lunch and Learn, Sunday, March 16, 11:30 am - 1 pm: We welcome Jeff Logan of Grace Street Ministries as our guest preacher. Join us after worship for a lunch and panel discussion on the topic of Affordable Housing. Hosted by our Mission and Social Witness Team.

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

Short Story Group, Sunday, March 23, 11:45 am - 12:45 pm: We will gather in Davidson Lounge to discuss 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.

Sign Making for our March Vigil, March 25, 5-6 pm in Wright Pavilion: Come get creative and make signs for Sunday's vigil.

Vigil for Women's Rights, Sunday, March 30, 11:15 am - 11:45 am on the front steps: Join us outside the front church entrance on Cottage Road after worship for a vigil for Women's Rights, including rights for our transgender sisters.

Faith Matters - Small Group Faith Formation experience, Sundays, 12:30 - 2 pm:

Led by Rev. Alison Patton and Rev. Steve Savage. As people of faith living in a deeply divided culture, what matters? Explore themes like welcome, covenant, communion, love, justice and prayer. Participate in the full series, or come when you can.

Sunday, March 9 - We are a church of God's extravagant welcome

Sunday, March 16 (1:30 - 3 pm) - We belong to Christ

Sunday, March 23 - We are a people of covenant - a united & uniting church

Sunday, March 30 - We are one at baptism and the table

Sunday, April 6 - We thank God by working for a just and loving world

Sunday, April 13 - We listen for the still-speaking God

Contact Pastor Alison to register or with questions: revalisonpatton@fccucc.org

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

IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Zoom Call with Maulian Bryant, Executive Director of the Wabanaki Alliance, Tuesday, March 25, 7 pm: Learn about the work of the Alliance in a state-wide virtual gathering hosted by the Maine Conference, UCC. FCC UCC's Mission and Social Witness Team and our Maine Conference are among the 315+ organizations that belong to the Wabanaki Alliance Coalition and support Wabanaki rights. To sign up, email Marvin Ellison at mellison122@gmail.com . He will send you a zoom link.

Defend Trans Lives: A Webinar for People of Faith, Tuesday, March 25, 3:30-5 pm or Tuesday, April 8, 8:30-10 pm: This trans-led webinar, offered twice (choose either date), will equip Christians and other people of faith – leaders and lay – to become more familiar with the experiences and realities of trans people. Learn how you can advocate for trans rights and ensure that our church is welcoming and safe for trans people and their families. Presented by Transforming Hearts Collective, Enfleshed, Soulforce and Queer Theology. Register at <http://transformingheartscollective.org/people-of-faith-defend-trans-lives>

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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,

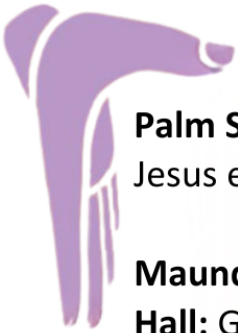
on Instagram: instagram.com/fccucc_s.portland

and on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/@FCCUCCSouthPortland





Lent - Easter Season



Palm Sunday, April 13, 10 am: Grab palm leaves and join the parade as Jesus enters Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday Soup Supper Service, April 17, 5:30 - 7 pm in Guptill Hall: Gather for a shared meal, communion, and hand or foot washing.

Good Friday Hunger Walk, April 18, 6 am: Walk up to 8 miles or sponsor a walker; raise funds to fight hunger locally and globally.

Good Friday Worship, April 18, 7 pm, sanctuary: Mark the final hours of Jesus' life with scripture readings, music by the Meetinghouse Choir and prayer.

Easter Vigil, 8 pm Good Friday - Easter sunrise, in the chapel: Sign up for a two-hour block to keep watch; mark the time between Christ's crucifixion and resurrection.

Easter Sunrise Service, 6 am Sunday, April 20: Gather at Fort Williams Park, on the hill by the flagpole, to welcome the rising Son.

Easter Festival Worship, Sunday, April 20, 10 am in the sanctuary - Come make a joyful noise as we celebrate the resurrection!

Earth Sunday Worship, April 27 - First Sunday after Easter, 10 am

