



Easter Season: Here Comes The Sun

Laughing Into The Sun April 12, 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 is yarn for God's Eyes, knitting, and clipboards with paper and coloring pages at the back of the sanctuary, for worshippers of any age to use during the service.

PRELUDE

Spring Intermezzo

Betty Jackson King

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

THRESHOLD MOMENT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Knock, Knock.

All: Who's there?

One: Silly.

All: Who?

One: Goofy.

All: Who?

One: Joyful.

**All: Silly, Goofy, Joy is always welcome amongst Christ's Easter People,
Let us celebrate God's love with laughter, and rejoice!**

***OPENING HYMN**

This is the Day

#257

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Kind and smiling God, look on us with warmth and forgiveness this day. We get so caught up in what is bad, and what is hard, and what is wrong, that we do not stop to smile, and to laugh, and to celebrate the beauty and the simple joys of life. Lighten our hearts and let us giggle at the ridiculousness we see, and beam at the beauty of a friend. Help us to stop and have fun, and to take the time to celebrate, not only to mourn. In you and through you and by your side the world is a funny, silly, ridiculous place, may we find the joy in all it has to offer. Amen.

PRAYERFUL PAUSE

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

UNISON WORDS OF ASSURANCE

You are forgiven and you are loved for exactly who you are. Do not be afraid to laugh when you fall down or to chuckle when you trip because with God you know your friends and your neighbors are always there to help you up and to dust you off.

PASSING OF THE PEACE One: The peace of Christ be with you.
 All: **And also with you.**

***SUNG RESPONSE** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!**

TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Rich Mead

One: The scriptures tell us how Christ stepped out from the shadow of death
 to proclaim the power of love!

**All: May we take these stories into our hearts,
 May their wisdom and promise illuminate the path that God has laid
 out before us,
 And may we carry them like lanterns into the world,
 to chase away the shadows of injustice and of fear! Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING John 20:19-31, Psalm 118:24

SERMON *Laughing Into The Light* Rev. Steve Savage

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM *Railroad Rhythm* Billy Mayerl

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father-Mother in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kin-dom come; Your 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 Yours is the kin-dom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Ken Medema

Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

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

*CLOSING HYMN

Glory Be to God On High

#35

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Thomas Ken,
Arr. Gary Norian

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WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team A, Terry Dallaire, captain.

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

Cover Photo: Photo by [Fuu J](#) on [Unsplash](#)

The flowers on the altar this morning are in celebration of the 40th birthday of Alex Ratta and Nick Ratta, from their Mom, Karen Westerberg.

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 office@fccucc.org.

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.

There will be no Ring for Joy handbell choir rehearsal on Wednesday, April 15. Rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, April 22 at 4:45 pm. To ring or learn more about the choir, please contact bell choir director Sharon Potter: handbells@fccucc.org.

COMING UP @ FCC UCC

Game Day, THIS SUNDAY, April 12, 11:30 am. Please join us for a game day with lunch. Potluck contributions are welcomed but not necessary. Games will be available and you may bring your favorite game to play.

Women's Spirit Circle, Tuesday, April 14, 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 or Pat Thatcher: pat.thatcher123@gmail.com

Luncheon at Southern Maine Community College Thursday, April 16 at 11:45 am. We have a group reservation for lunch at the Culinary Arts Dining Center. All are welcome but seats are limited so RSVP as soon as possible. \$20 plus gratuity, Contact Kathy Sahrbeck at 415-0170 or kathrynsme@yahoo.com.

Earth Day Lunch & Learn, Sunday, April 19, 11:30 am -1:00 pm in Wright Pavilion
See back of bulletin for details.

Parents of Adult Children Group, Sunday, April 19, 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.

Game Night, Tuesday, April 21, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, Join us for Game Night in Wright pavilion. The rumor is that cookies are now served and you can still play whatever game you prefer. We would love to have you play games with us.

Blessing of the Children's Clothes Closet, Sunday, April 26.

Join us for a special coffee hour on the fifth floor, and get tour of the newly relocated Children's Clothes Closet. We will bless the space together!!

Fellowship Club Welcomes Wild Seed Project, Tuesday, May 5, 6 pm.

Following the monthly Fellowship Dinner, join Wild Seed Project's Manager of Applied Ecology, Tyler Refsland, for an engaging lecture exploring how to create a habitat at home with native plants and flowers. Dinner is \$25 (inclusive of contribution towards the presentation). To register please e-mail Carolyn at carolyn.clark353@gmail.com by May 3rd. You do not need to be a member to attend, all are welcome. Please contact Bruce Lockwood blockwood@portlandresearch.com if you would like a ride or need some assistance to pay for the meal and program – we don't want to leave out anyone.

SAVE THE DATE for our Mission Trip Fundraising Dinner and Auction: Saturday evening, May 30. Auction items will include gift certificates, personal or professional services, gift baskets, artwork, vacation lodging and much more. To donate contact Lynne Lanctot at 207-318-1605.

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

UPDATE re: Weekly Multi-Faith Vigil: Several months ago, multi-faith community members began to gather weekly outside the Cumberland County Jail. It was recently decided not to continue the weekly vigil in its current form. Leaders are discerning where and how we feel called to be together in prayerful vigil next.

Please [sign up for this email list](#) to receive updates from the planning team, please sign up for this email list: <https://tinyurl.com/ud2tcj97>. Updates by mid-April.

NEW DATE: Climate Talk - Flood or Drought: Two Sides of the Same Coin, Wednesday, April 22, 6 pm at the South Portland Public Library, with James, Toxtli, Mellow.- Co-sponsored with the City of South Portland. Take a look at what is causing floods and drought, and explore solutions both broad and in your backyard and home to restore the water cycle and living soil. Learn more at <https://southportlandlibrary.com/>

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- April 19 - Earth Sunday - *Here Comes the Sun, Week 3: The (Renewable!) Power of God.*
Preacher: Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton.
- April 26 - Fourth Sunday of Easter. *Here Comes the Sun, Week 4: TBD.* Preacher: Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

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:



Sunday, April 19, 11:30am

**EARTH DAY LUNCH
AND LEARN**

**With Molly
Schen of:**



TH!RD ACT

MAINE

Maine's Statewide facilitator will speak on expanding solar power, lowering utility costs and making large corporate polluters share the high costs of climate change-driven storm damage on Maine's environment and communities. Light lunch provided. Hosted by Environmental Working Group. Learn more at [Thirdact.org](https://www.thirdact.org).