

A young child with long hair, wearing a light blue shirt, stands on a rocky beach with arms outstretched, looking towards the ocean at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow over the water and sky.

Easter Season: Here Comes The Sun

The (Renewable) Power of God April 19, 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 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

Flower Duet from Lakmé

Léo Delibes

Arr. Auguste Bazille

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

THRESHOLD MOMENT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: In the beginning,

All: God moved like a wind over the waters;

One: On Easter morning,

All: Christ rose like the sun;

One: Every day,

All: The Spirit flows through us like a powerful current.

One: People of God, the Power of God is everywhere pulsing!

**All: Let us worship God who animates the world and
supercharges our faith!**

OPENING SONG** *Come Sing the Plenteous Power of God Tune: Morning Song

**Come sing the plenteous power
of God,
Alive in humankind,
To hold and heal, to seek and save,
To leave our wars behind.**

**To join with all creation now,
A partnership of love,
To tend the handiwork of God,
In whom we live and move.**

**To join with people everywhere,
And dare to change our ways,
To save what can be saved of earth,
In these most crucial days.**

**To tend with deep humility,
That dares not blame or boast,
This tiny world so full of life,
This home, this hope, this host.**

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

RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

One: Creator God, you designed creation to sustain itself.

All: In the beginning, nothing was lost!

One: But in our rush to grow and expand,
We have harnessed power in ways that degrade your creation.

All: When we consume at the expense of our more-than-human kin, leaving waste and destruction in our wake, forgive us, we pray. Instruct us in the ways of the wild, where everything is reused and nothing is squandered. Remind us how to walk lightly on the earth and lead us back to the garden.

One: With hope in our hearts for a better day, we pray:

All: Amen.

PRAYERFUL PAUSE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

*SUNG RESPONSE

Easter People

David Light

We are an Easter people and hallelujah is our song!

We are an Easter people and

hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah is our song!

TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

AnnElissa Leveque

One: God of life-renewing power, as we read these ancient texts,

All: Harness our attention, spark our curiosity, and ignite our desire to radiate enough love and justice to restore your world.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 19:1-4

AnnElissa Leveque

Revelations 21:1-5

Neil Haskins

SERMON

The (Renewable) Power of God

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM

Bright Morning Stars

American Folk Song,
arr. Jay Althouse

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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 SONG**

*Creation's Song***

We long for hope
In fearful days
We've known despair too long

*From life to death
From death to life
We need creation's song*

We're paying now
For all we took
We failed to count the cost

*From life to death
From death to life
We sing creation lost*

The dying seed
Brings forth new fruit
A hungry child to feed

*From life to death
From death to life
We sing the world we need*

We plant the trees
To shade the play
Of children we won't see

*From life to death
From death to life
We sing the world to be*

**We work with God
To make a world
Where all on earth belong**

*From life to death
From death to life
We sing creation's song*

**Come work with God
To make a world
Where all on earth belong**

*From life to death
From death to life
We sing creation's song*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

For the Beauty of the Earth

Conrad Kocher
Arr. Gary Norian

* * * * *

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team B, Peggy Murray, 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 are shared by Pat Thatcher and Scott Berry in celebration of their birthdays.

****Songs composed by** Mark Miller, Ken Medema, John Creasy, Alyssa Creasy, Darrell Adams, Julien Davis Reid, Lindy Thompson, Thomas Graham. Creation Justice Ministries. Used by Permission.

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.

Handbell Rehearsal every Wednesday, 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

TODAY: Earth Day Lunch & Learn with Molly Schen of Third Act, 11:30 am -1:00 pm in Wright Pavilion. *See details, back cover.*

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.

Let's Take a Walk! Two Lights State Park, Thursday, April 23, 5:30 - 6:30 pm: Celebrate *Earth Day* and reconnect with your FCCUCC walking buddies. We will meet in the parking lot and take a 1.3 mile loop walk that meanders along the cliffs and through the woods. Moderate terrain (groomed paths but with some up and down, including stairs). \$5 entry fee. FCCUCC is glad to cover your fee on request. 65 and older: free admission.

Blessing of the Children's Clothes Closet, Sunday, April 26: Join us for a special coffee hour on the fifth floor, and get a tour of the newly relocated Children's Clothes Closet. We will bless the space together!

Newcomers Reception, Sunday, April 26, 11:45 am - 1 pm, Davidson Lounge: Join Pastor Alison at 11:45 am, after the blessing of the Clothes Closet, for a chance to connect with others who have recently come through the doors. Bring your questions. Learn about opportunities to get involved. All welcome to this informal gathering.

New Member Orientation (for those considering membership), Tuesday, April 28, 6 - 7:30 pm, Wright Pavilion: Joining the church is a way of saying, "Yes" to community, "Yes, this is where I want to ask my deep questions, explore and live out my faith, along with others who have gathered here." If you are curious to learn more about being an FCCUCC member - who we are, and what we can do together - join Pastor Alison for an orientation to membership. Come for good conversation and pizza! RSVP: revalisonpatton@fccucc.org

Poster Making, Sunday, May 3, 9:15 am and fellowship worship. Prep for our *Take Back Our Democracy Vigil*, scheduled for Sunday, May 17 after worship.

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: carolyn.clark353@gmail.com by May 3rd. You do not need to be a member to attend. Please contact Bruce Lockwood blockwood@portlandresearch.com if you would like a ride or need 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.

New Member Sunday, May 31: We will welcome new members during worship. Curious about joining FCCUCC? See Pastor Alison and consider attending the New Member Orientation on April 28.

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

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/>

Earth Day Resource Faith, Saturday, April 25, 10 am - 2 pm: South Portland will host its second annual Earth Day Resource Fair at Mill Creek Park. Rain location is South Portland Community Center.

All That Is Within Us - A Research Presentation, Thursday, April 30, 7 - 8:30 pm on Zoom: The BTS Center invites you to the public release of this landmark research report documenting what 12 congregations across Northern New England learned when they spent five months rigorously discerning their communities' unique role in a climate-changed world. FCCUCC was one of the participants; you'll see reference to our *Toss the Tanks* forum.

SAVE THE DATE: Love is the Point, Friday, May 15, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, First Parish Church, 425 Congress Street, Portland: A Multi-faith Response to Turning Point USA Event: Greater Portland Multi-faith leaders invite people of every faith (or no faith) to an evening of live music and support for efforts related to immigrant rights, trans rights, reproductive rights and gun safety. This free gathering will shine a light on the love our Maine community has for those whose wellbeing is threatened by the rise of Christian Nationalist ideologies. Held at the same time as a Turning Point event in downtown Portland, *Love is the Point* will create a welcoming space to honor the inherent worth of all people. Sign-up is not required, but helps planners estimate attendance: loveisthepoint.eventbrite.com

Climate Changed Podcast - Season 4! In honor of Earth Day: check out the newest season of the *Climate Changed Podcast* - a podcast about becoming more human in a more-than-human world, produced by the BTS Center. "This season, we're listening to people who are re-imagining what creative leadership looks like - and to what ends. We'll keep connecting, healing, and rooting as earthly creatures facing our Earth that's profoundly climate-changed."

<https://thebtscenter.org/climate-changed-s4/>

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).