



Easter Season: Here Comes The Sun

Let Your Light Shine April 26, 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 is an all-ages worship service. Young people are invited to remain in worship with us.

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

Maple Leaf Rag

Scott Joplin

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

WAKING UP THE LAKE (THRESHOLD MOMENT)

GREETING THE SUN (SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP) *O The Sun's Coming Up*

Refrain: **Cuz the Lord took my life and he filled it
with his ever-lovin' light, ever-lovin' light.
Oh! The Lord took my life and she filled it
With her ever-lovin' light.**

PREPARING THE CIRCLE

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Congregational Response: Forgive us and fan the Christ-light within 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**

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!

BRINGING OUT THE GOD COLORS (TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN)

GATHERING AROUND THE CAMPFIRE (PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION) Chuck Warner

One: God of life-renewing power,

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

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

HEARING GOD'S STORY Matthew 5:13-16 *The Message Paraphrase* Chuck Warner

TELLING OUR STORIES Jill Saxby, Betsy Westcott-Keiter, Rich Mead

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM *The Farthest Field* David Dobson

WALKING THE LABYRINTH (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.

FANNING THE FLAMES (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, and click Donate or by adding your contribution to the box at the back of the sanctuary.



This morning, you are also invited to make donations to help young people attend camp. Just note, "Pilgrim Lodge Scholarship Fund" in the Memo. Thank you!

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

BLESSING THE OFFERING

***SINGING TOGETHER** *This Little Light of Mine* #364
African-American Spiritual

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING US FORTH

POSTLUDE *This Little Light of Mine (Reprise)* arr. Mark Hayes

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WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team C, Bill Campbell, captain.

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

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

☰ **Royalty for Spirituals:** Historically, composers of African American Spirituals were not compensated for use of their songs. The FCCUCC music department has committed to paying forward a 'royalty' when we include a Spiritual in worship. Funds are donated to the Indigo Arts Alliance: <https://indigoartsalliance.me>. 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.

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.

Prayer Shawls, every Wednesday, 1 - 3 pm in Davidson Lounge: New and experienced knitters welcome. Bring needles size 9, 10, or 11, the church has plenty of yarn. Questions? Contact Lynne Lanctot at lanctotla74@gmail.com.

TODAY @ FCC UCC

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

COMING UP @ FCC UCC

Poster Making, Sunday, May 3, 9:15 am and following 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.

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

Contact Lynne Lanctot at 207-318-1605 if you have an auction item to contribute.

- ☛ *What could I donate?* Be creative! Items have included: themed gift baskets, homemade bagels and fudge, a bicycle, day at a lake cottage, and repair service.
- ☛ *Then*, invite others to join us with their checkbook for dinner and a lively evening of bidding fun.

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 the month, we prepare meals at the Food Hub, 75 Darling Avenue, South Portland. To learn more contact Danna at dannawig2@gmail.com

THE WIDER COMMUNITY

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. ⇒ Register to get a Zoom link at: <https://thebtscenter.org/cyc-presentation/>

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 all people to an evening of live music to support immigrant rights, trans rights, reproductive rights and gun safety. Held at the same time as a Turning Point event in Portland, *Love is the Point* will create a welcoming space to honor the inherent worth of all people. Registration: loveisthepoint.eventbrite.com

Women in Harmony Concert, Friday, May 15 at 7:30 pm , Saturday, May 16 at 3:00 pm, Falmouth Congregational Church, 267 Falmouth Road: Spring Concert: Rooted to the Ground, Tickets: wihmaine.org/concerts/rooted-to-the-ground/

Community Sing, May 17, 3:30 pm at HopeGateway, 515 Woodford Street, Portland: All ages welcome. Facilitated by Emilia Dahlin. No Experience necessary. Please listen to your body and come another time if you're feeling less than healthy. Masking is always welcome. Air purifiers will be present.

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:**



Pilgrim Lodge

An Outdoor Ministry of the Maine Conference, UCC

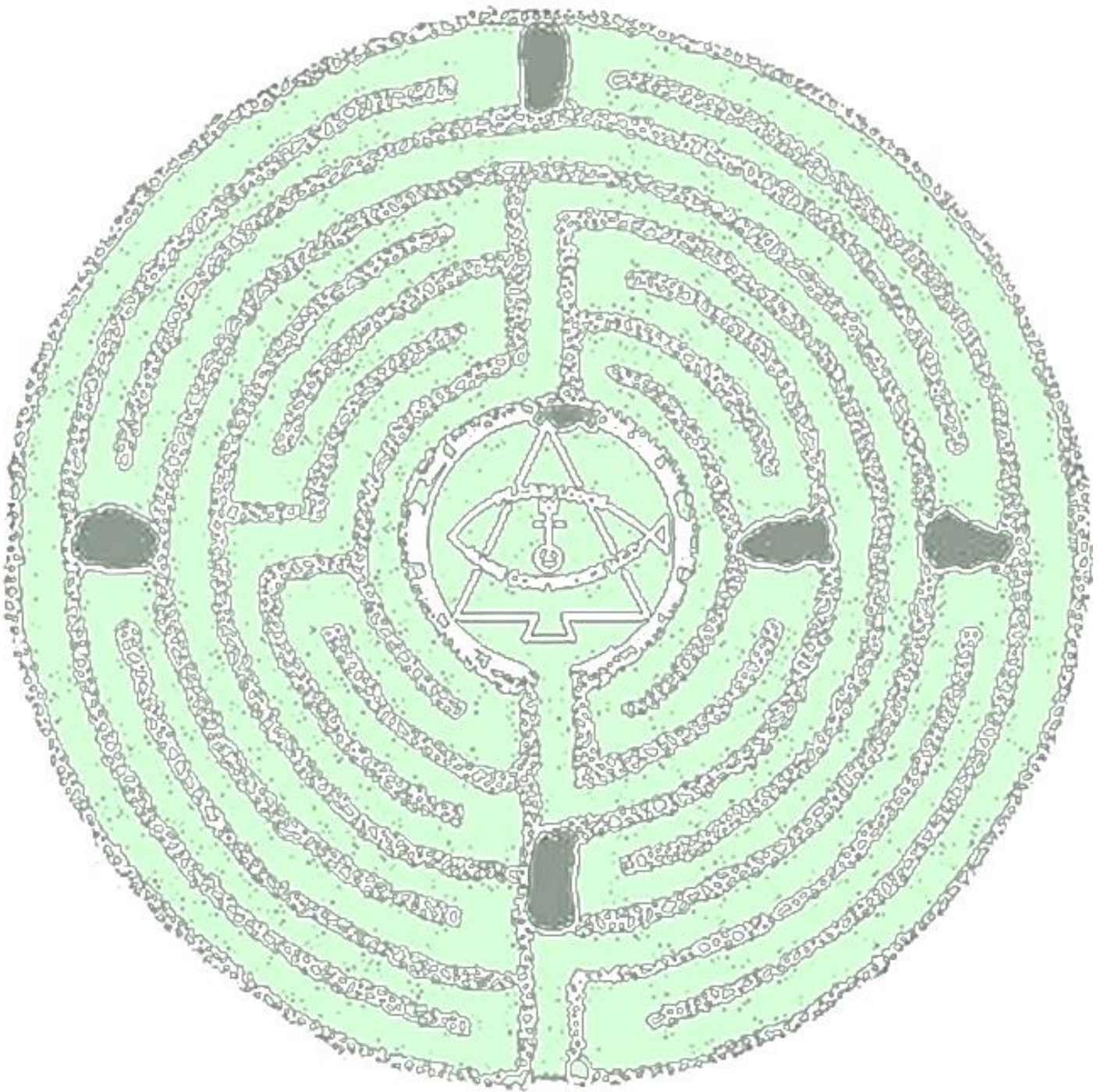


Image: A finger-sized version of the labyrinth located at Pilgrim Lodge.

Located on the shores of Lake Umbagog, Pilgrim Lodge is a multi-generational summer camp and retreat space centered on the spirit of extravagant welcome. To learn more about Pilgrim Lodge, its programs and people, go to: www.pilgrimlodge.org.