



Easter Sunday At the Break of Day April 5, 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 worship all together; there is no church school. There will be opportunities for young people to contribute during the service. There are also children's bulletins and coloring pencils available at the back of the sanctuary, along with clipboards and paper for worshippers of any age.

PRELUDE *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* arr. Brian Childers
Ring for Joy Handbell Choir

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Revs. Alison J. B. Patton and Stephen Savage

THRESHOLD MOMENT *Now the Green Blade Rises* Crum/French Noel
Skyler J. Keiter, French Horn

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: People of God, somewhere between dusk and dawn

All: Something extraordinary has happened:

One: Death has lost its grip

All: Grief has turned to surprise

One: Joy has overcome fear

All: New life has taken hold!

One: People of God, today we glimpse what God can do

All: Between heartbreak and the break of day.

One: Today, what felt impossible is within reach, because Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

***OPENING HYMN** *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* #205
Children are invited forward to decorate the cross with flowers.

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

God of Empty Tombs: New life can be unsettling. When we choose the tombs we know over the new life you offer, when we get stuck in patterns and practices that deny life to us and others: forgive us, we pray. Banish our fears; teach us to trust in a future transformed by love; coax us out into your new day. Amen.

PRAYERFUL PAUSE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

SUNG RESPONSE

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Beethoven

Joyful, joyful, we adore you, God of glory, God of love.

Hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the storms of doubt away.

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

SCRIPTURE

John 20:1-18

Deb Grew

Children are invited forward to help tell the Easter story.

EASTER REFLECTION

At the Break of Dawn

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM

Thine Be the Glory

G. F. Handel

Ring for Joy Handbell Choir with Skyler J. Keiter, French Horn

OFFERING INVITATION

Help us to live God's love and justice. Make a secure gift by scanning the QR code, going to fccucc.org/donate, or by adding your contribution to the box at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you!



Special Offering: Designated online gifts (use the "other" category and note "Easter Fund") and cash offerings will be given to the *Maine Solidarity Fund*.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father-Mother in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom 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 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 from one of four stations. 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 Music *Jesus is Coming Again* Peterson/arr. Bock

EASTER PROCLAMATION

One: Christ in our Midst: For this meal, this new day, and all the people,

All: We thank you! For showing up in heartbreak and at daybreak:

One: We thank you! For urging us to imagine a future transformed by love:

All: We thank you! Now, send us out to share the Good News,

One: With our words and with our lives:

All: Death is defeated. Love is at large. Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!

***EASTER FANFARE** *Hallelujah Chorus* G. F. Handel

If you would like to sing “Hallelujah Chorus” with the Meetinghouse Choir, you are invited to come forward and join the choir in the chancel.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Hallelujah Chorus - Reprise* G. F. Handel

Families with children are invited to exit by the side door at the front of the sanctuary, to take part in an Easter Egg Hunt – up the stairs to the fifth floor.

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WORSHIP NOTES

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

Ushers: Thank you to our Usher Team I, Richard Parker, captain, and our Easter Greeter, Jan Hamilton.

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

Communion: Thank you to Jennifer Goode for preparing the communion table.

Meetinghouse Choir

Deirdre McClure, Director

Josie DiPhilippo, Accompanist

Soprano

Betsey Wescott-

Keiter

Sheryl Kieran

Deb Sandler

Adrienne Wilson

Samantha Wilson

Alto

Judith Borelli

Debra Honey

Judy Kimball

Sarah Lupien

Gina Tapp

Tenor

Chris Keiter

Skyler J. Keiter

Bruce Martel

Bass

Kevin Cleary

Walter Kimball

Terry Livingston

Bruce Lockwood

Ring for Joy Handbell Choir

Sharon Potter, Director

Jean Fahey

Julia Frothingham

Jennifer Meko

Gin Gedney

Joseph Meko

Peggy Murray

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.

Ring for Joy Handbell Choir rehearses every Wednesday, 4:45 pm in Wright Pavilion. To ring or learn more about the choir, please contact director Sharon Potter: handbells@fccucc.org.

Flute Ensemble: Flute players of all ages are invited to participate in our FCCUCC Flute Ensemble. For more info, contact Sharon Potter at handbells@fccucc.org.

EASTER SEASON AT FCC UCC

Fellowship Club, Tuesday, April 7 at 6:15 pm: We will be joined by Scott “Smoking Bear” Edwards. Mr. Edwards’ performances feature a variety of flutes. RSVP to Carolyn Clark at carolyn.clark353@gmail.com by noon on Sunday, April 5.

Spring Ring - Handbell Concert, Saturday, April 11, 4 pm at Greely Middle School, 351 Tuttle Road, Cumberland: Ring for Joy will be joining other ringers from the state of Maine for the Handbell Musicians of America’s Area 1 Spring Ring.

Game Day with Potluck, Sunday, April 12, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, Wright Pavilion. Board games old and new! Organized by our Care and Connections Team.

Women's Spirit Circle, Tuesday, April 14, 7 pm, Community Room: LGBTQ+ inclusive Women's gathering led by FCCers Pat Thatcher and Nancy Brajtbord.

FCCUCC On the Town! Luncheon at Southern Maine Community College, Thursday, April 16 at 11:45 am: Join FCCUCC members and friends for lunch at the Culinary Arts Dining Center. Space is limited. Please RSVP Kathy Sahrbeck at 415-0170 or kathrynsme@yahoo.com.

Lunch and Learn with *Third Act*, Earth Sunday, April 19, 11:30 am- 1:00 pm, Wright Pavilion: Guest speaker Molly Schen, Ed.D., of Third Act Maine (TAM) 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 about Thirdact.org.

Parents of Adult Children, Sunday, April 19, 6 pm, Davidson Lounge: Build friendships and mutual support, wherever you are on this part of the parenting journey.

Game Night, Tuesday, April 21, 7:00-8:30 pm, Wright Pavilion: All welcome!

SAVE THE DATE for our Mission Trip Fundraising Dinner and Auction: Saturday evening, May 30. Proceeds support our July trip to Cherryfield, ME, where we will volunteer with Maine Seacoast Mission.

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 FCCUCC 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

First Congregational Church, UCC Staff

Tom Conlon, Building Manager

Josie DiPhilippo, Co-Director of Music, organist/pianist

Deirdre McClure, Co-Director of Music, Choir Director

Alison J. Buttrick Patton, Senior Pastor

Sharon Potter, Ring for Joy Handbell Choir Director

Kat Roderick, Community Engagement Manager

Kathy Cotter, Interim Community Crisis Ministries Director

Steve Savage, Associate Pastor

Melissa Yosua-Davis, Business Manager

WHAT'S UP? Want to stay in the loop?

To UPDATE or ADD your contact info, go to:

fccucc.org and select "Contact Us" then select
"Contact Info Update Form."

Look for us on Facebook: facebook.com/fccucc,

on Instagram: instagram.com/fccucc_s.portland

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



Easter Flower Dedications

In Memory of

Loved Ones from Peggy Murray
Tom Kochy from Sandra Kochy
Paul E. Brooks from Marvin Ellison and Frank Brooks
Loved Ones from The Kieran Family
Donald & Jane Gressly and Henry & Evelyn Armstrong
from Diane and Richard Armstrong
Peter Cotter from The Cotter Family
Robert and Lois Gatcombe
from Their Daughter, Leslie Gatcombe-Hynes
Loved Ones from Debbie and Jim Rideout
Gail Frothingham and Ruth Warner
from Julia, Chuck, and Eddie
Esther and Clyde Parker from Richard Parker
Our Loved Ones from the Sahrbeck Family

In Celebration of

Carol Armistead's Life from Jan Hamilton
Family from Debbie and Jim Rideout
Lily, Ainsley, Elsa, Tommy, Maya, and Beau
from Nonna and PopPop
Our Children, Silas, Finn, and Paul
from Chris and Carol Zechman
Our Daughter Coral Jean Sandler
from Deb and Jeff Sandler
**Our Daughter, Sarah, and Nieces, Brenna
and Hailey** from Debbie and John Grew
Our Loved Ones
from The Sahrbeck Family
Our Parents and Debra's Sister
from Tim and Debra Honey
The Life of FCCUCC
from Joe and Jennifer Meko
The Lockwood, Lang, and Wendorf Families
from Bruce Lockwood

