



Leaders and Laborers May 10, 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 are clipboards with paper and coloring pages at the back of the sanctuary, for worshippers of any age to use during the service.

PRELUDE

Eintritt (Entry) Op. 82 No. 1

Robert Schumann

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

THRESHOLD MOMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, you who set the table

All: Come, you who gather the guests

One: Come, you who cast the vision

All: Come, you who answer the call

One: Come, you who labor for justice

All: Come, you who work for peace

One: Come risk takers, caregivers, and fierce way-makers

All: Together, let us worship the God of New Life!

OPENING HYMN

Christ be our Light

S-13

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

One: Gathering God, when the news and the noise overwhelm, when grief or pain take hold, it is easy to retreat, to choose the relative safety of isolation.

All: Being in community can be hard. It requires us to navigate difference. It calls us to share space. Forgive us, O God, when we don't feel up to the task, when we turn away from each other. Remind us that we need each other; assure us that your Spirit is here to guide us through the challenges and knit us together. Teach us the art of gathering and forge us into a fierce and tender force for good.

PRAYERFUL PAUSE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

***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

Debbie Rideout

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.**

SCRIPTURE

Acts 12:11-17

SERMON

Leaders and Laborers

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM

His Eye is on the Sparrow

Charles H. Gabriel/
arr. Robert Moore

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

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, by going to fccucc.org and clicking on "Donate," or by adding your contribution to the box at the back of the sanctuary.



MUSICAL INTERLUDE

BLESSING THE OFFERING and BLANKET BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

We'll Build a Land

S-26

CHORUS:

**Come build a land where siblings together,
anointed by God, may then create peace;
where justice shall roll down like waters,
and peace like an everflowing stream.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Barcarolle (from Tales of Hoffman)

Jacques Offenbach

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WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team E, Rich Armstrong, captain.

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

The flowers on the altar are given in honor of all mothers, by Barbara and Keith Powers.

WEEKLY @ FCCUCC

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, and your own yarn, or check out the church yarn supply. Questions? Contact Lynne Lanctot at lanctotla74@gmail.com.

COMING UP @ FCC UCC

New Member Orientation (for those considering membership), Tuesday, May 12, 6 - 7:30 pm: 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. Includes pizza! RSVP: revalisonpatton@fccucc.org

Women's Spirit Circle, Tuesday, May 12, 7-8:30 pm, Community Room: Join us for the third gathering of the Women's Spirit Circle—a welcoming space for connection, reflection, and shared joy. All women, including LGBTQIA+ participants, are warmly invited. Nancy Brajtbord: nancy.brajtbord@gmail.com; Pat Thatcher: pat.thatcher123@gmail.com

New Men's Group meets, Wednesday, May 13 at 6:45 pm, Laity Room: Please join us as we further define the group's goals and get to know each other better. Any male-identifying or binary persons are welcome.

Tech Help Day, Sunday, May 17, 11:30 am - 1 pm: Looking for assistance in figuring out your electronic devices? Visit our Tech Table in Wright Pavilion. Get help with Venmo, Instagram, or any tech question. If you need help with your phone, our tech gurus will resolve your issues or point you to more help.

Parents of Adult Children Group, Sunday, May 17, 6-7:30 pm: All parents of adult children (over 18 years old) are welcome to join us. No judgment, no advice-giving -- just a time to build friendships and mutual support, wherever you are on this part of the parenting journey.

Game Night, Tuesday, May 19, 7:00 pm, Wright Pavilion: The rumor is that cookies are now served and you can play whatever game you prefer. All are welcome! Questions? Contact Kathy Sahrbeck: kathrynsme@yahoo.com

Mission Trip Fundraising Dinner and Auction: Saturday evening, May 30, Dinner and Silent Auction - 6 pm; Live auction - 7 pm: Menu: Chicken or eggplant parmesan with spaghetti, salad, and dessert. Cost: \$20 per adult / \$12 per child. Dinner reservations required. Email Chris Keiter at cfkeiter@gmail.com with the number of attendees and meal choices (or if you are interested in participating in the July 12-17 mission trip). To donate auction items, 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 May 12.

Introducing: *Faith and Fiction*, May 31 and June 28, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm: Join FCCUCC member Chuck Warner and Pastor Steve for reflection on various books and short stories. On May 31, we will discuss the first in a hope-filled two-book series set in a sustainable climate future: *A Psalm for the Wild Built* by Becky Chambers. On June 28, we will discuss the second book: *A Prayer for the Crown Shy*. These books can be bought in a single volume called *Monk and Robot*.

JUNE - SAVE THE DATES!

Church Lunch and Annual Meeting, Sunday, June 7, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm: Join us after worship on Sunday, June 7 for this annual gathering. Reflect on the past year, elect leaders and learn what's been cooking at First Congregational Church, UCC.

Understanding Gender and Sexuality Workshop Series, three Tuesdays in June (June 2, 16, and third date TBD), 6 pm - 8 pm: We are excited to welcome educator Christine Caulfield, advocate for equal rights and treatment of LGBTQ+ folks. Responding to recent controversies, this series will draw on biological science, sociology, history, and political science. Limited space. Watch for registration details.

MISSION AND SOCIAL WITNESS

Children's Clothes Closet is now open to the public! Beginning May 13, The Children's Clothes Closet will be open:

2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 11 am - 1 pm • 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 12 pm - 2 pm

Interested in volunteering? contact AnnElissa Leveque: imzadidog@maine.rr.com.

Clothing Donations:

- 1. Clean, wearable children's clothes of all sizes (including teens)** can be dropped off on the 5th floor, in the Children's Clothes Closet donation bin just inside the left-hand door.
- 2. Adult clothes, shoes and accessories, both wearable *and* unwearable,** can now be deposited in the *Apparel Impact* bin in the main parking lot. Upcycle and recycle to keep clothes out of our landfills! www.apparelimpact.com

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, see the Weekly Word or contact Danna Wiggins: dannawig2@gmail.com.

IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY

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. See back cover for details.

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

Springfest Community Celebration 2026: May 15, 5:30 - 7 pm, at Redbank Village Community Center and May 16, 11 am - 3 pm, at Mill Creek Park: Details at <https://spspringfest.com> Come visit the FCCUCC table on Saturday in the park!

Community Sing, May 17, 3:30 pm at HopeGateway, 515 Woodford Street, Portland: All ages welcome. Facilitated by Emilia Dahlin. No Experience necessary.

Green Teams Gathering, Saturday, May 30, 10 am - 4 pm, Wolfe's Neck Center, Freeport: The BTS Center invites faith communities from across New England to come together in a spirit of bold collaboration and vision. Passamaquoddy Language Keeper Dwayne Tomah will offer the keynote on an indigenous perspective on the Doctrine of Discovery. Learn more at: <https://thebtscenter.org/greenteams/>. NOTE: *There is a discount if you register as part of the FCCUCC Team.* Contact Pastor Alison at revalisonpatton@fccucc.org

Film Screening: *Heightened Scrutiny*, June 6, 4-6:30 pm, Equality Community Center. This is a free Pride month screening. Reserve your seat at ECCMaine.org/film.

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."

Find us, like and follow us on social media. Now on Substack! @FCCUCC





A Community Gathering of Love, Acceptance & Solidarity

Friday May 15th 6:30-8:30PM
425 Congress St. Portland, ME

FREE - Donations accepted for relevant causes

Local Music Acts ♥ Loving MultiFaith Leaders
Community Solidarity & Support

An alternative to the Portland Turning Point USA event.
This gathering is:

PRO-Trans Rights

PRO-Immigrant

PRO-Queer Rights

PRO-Diversity

PRO-Reproductive Rights

PRO-Gun Safety



Anti-White Christian Nationalism

loveisthepoint.eventbrite.com

You are Loved. You are Welcome.