



Meeting Jesus on the Road

**Confirmation Sunday
May 25, 2025**

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.***

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST** 

A Note for Families / Folks of All Ages: We begin worship together. After the Passing of the Peace, young people grades K-5 are invited to follow teachers Craig Patton and Carolyn Clark upstairs to our one-room classroom. Students grades 6-8 may choose to go to Church School or stay in worship for confirmation. Church School Theme: Hospitality. There are also clipboards with paper and coloring pages at the back of the sanctuary, for worshippers of any age to use during the service.

PRELUDE *How Great the Wisdom and the Love* Thomas McIntyre

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

THRESHOLD MOMENT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Welcome to all who have come in search of something;

All: We have come to seek the living God.

One: Happy are those who find a way and follow that path;

All: We do not make this journey alone.

One: Blessed are those who stay curious and travel with open hearts.

All: In faith, in trust, with hope, let us worship God.

***OPENING HYMN** *Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us* #212

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

All: Loving God, our journey to You often feels like a dance, one step forward and two steps back. We follow and we falter; we try and we give up. The good we do seems to fall flat, and the wrong we do gets magnified. For all our failings, for all our missteps, You do not give up on us. Stay with us, and when we lose our way, turn us back to You. We pray this in the name of Jesus. 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** *Halle, Halle, Halle!*

Halle, halle, halle-lu-lu-jah! [3 times]

Hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah!

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Evan Campbell

One: This is the sacred story of the Risen Christ at work in the world.

All: **Holy One, open our ears to hear, our hearts to receive and our lives to be expanded by your Word. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:13-32

Luke Borelli, Evan Campbell and Declan Scifres

CONFIRMATION REFLECTION *Meeting Jesus on the Road* Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION

Invitation

Introductions

Evan Campbell - Introduced by Kevin Cleary

Declan Scifres - Introduced by Heather Hansen

Luke Borelli - Introduced by Craig Patton

Exchange of Promises

Affirmation of FCC UCC Mission Commitments:

All: Together we seek to worship God as made known in the Scriptures, as revealed in Jesus Christ, and as encountered through the Holy Spirit;

to serve our members, our community and our world, working in faithful witness toward justice and peace for all people;

to educate people of all ages toward a deeper understanding of their individual faith pilgrimage, their relationships with others, and their responsibilities as stewards of God's created order;

and to grow in fellowship as the Body of Christ, inviting others to share in the Good News of God's love.

Confirmation

Family members are invited to gather around each confirmand as he is blessed.

Membership in FCC UCC

Words of Welcome:

All: We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church! We promise you our friendship and prayers, as we share the hopes and labors of Christ's Church. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we grow together, listen for the Still-Speaking God, work for a just and loving world and extend an extravagant welcome to all we meet. Amen!

Prayer of Blessing:

One: God who calls us each by name and calls us all to serve:

All: Bless these, your disciples. Lend them eyes to see Christ in friend and stranger, ears to hear the cries of your people, lips to boldly proclaim your grace and mercy, hands to work for justice and a heart to love your world. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM

Gaelic Blessing

John Rutter

PASTORAL PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father-Mother in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy 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 thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE: *Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.* ☰

OFFERING INVITATION

You can make a secure online 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 GIFTS

CLOSING SONG

Guide My Feet

African-American Spiritual ☰

Guide my feet, while I run this race [Three times]

For I don't want to run this race in vain.

I'm your child, while I run this race...

Stand by me, while I run this race...

Guide my feet, while I run this race...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

March in E Flat

Alexander Schreiner

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team I, Tom Hamerski, captain.

The flowers on the altar are from Joyce Brown In remembrance of her Mother, Ruth J. Brown to celebrate her May 26 birthday.

The Steeple is lit in memory of Ronald E Mitchell by his mother, Marilyn Mitchell.

▣ **Royalty for Spirituals:** Historically, the composers of African American Spirituals were neither known nor compensated for use of their songs. The FCC UCC music department has committed to paying forward a 'royalty' each time we include a Spiritual in worship. We are now donating funds to the Indigo Arts Alliance. You are invited to contribute, as well. Donate by check or online, with "Royalty for Spirituals" in the memo. Thank you.

WEEKLY @ FCC UCC

Tuesday Bible Study will continue, every Tuesday, 12:30 - 1:30 pm in Davidson Lounge:

While Pastor Steve is on his much-deserved sabbatical, a loyal group of FCC UCC members has decided to continue their Tuesday tradition of worship reflection. The group will continue to meet, and all are welcome!

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.

Handbells & Handchimes rehearse on alternating Wednesdays, 4:30 pm – chimes/ 4:45 pm – bells in Wright Pavilion. Questions? Contact bell choir director Sharon Potter: handbells@fccucc.org.

MUSIC AT FCC UCC

The FCC UCC Flute Ensemble will meet on Wednesday, May 28, 3:30-4:30 pm in the Wright Pavilion. All flute players are welcome. We will be reading through some music and choosing some selections to prepare to share at worship. We will also schedule our next rehearsal. Rehearsal times for the ensemble will vary according to the schedules of the members. If you would like to participate and are unable to attend this rehearsal, please contact Sharon Potter at handbells@fccucc.org for more information.

EASTER SEASON AT FCC UCC

Art Exhibit - *Interconnected: Exploring Our Kinship With God's More-Than-Human Creation*, continues: View Earth Day-inspired quilts, paintings and photographs created by members and friends of FCC UCC, in the hallway outside the sanctuary. Let this diverse collection of images inspire your reflections about our relationship to God's more-than-human creation!

Vigil to Save Our Democracy, Sunday, June 1, 11:30 am - 12 noon: Join us on the church steps, facing Cottage Road, after worship, as we stand in support of democratic values and the human rights that democracy protects.

All Church Lunch and Annual Meeting, Sunday, June 8, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, Guptill Hall. Join us as we reflect on the past year, elect new leaders and identify ministry priorities for the coming months. Members and friends are all encouraged to attend!



Youth Service Corps (YSC) Beach Cleaning, Sunday, June 8, 1:30 - 4 pm. At 1:30 pm, the group will meet for a pizza lunch at FCC UCC, in Wright Pavilion. Then they will go to Willard Beach for a beach clean up from 2 to 4 pm with Surfrider Maine and Chickadeeds. Sign-ups due by June 1.

- RSVP for pizza to amber@stalbandsmaine.org
- Register for the clean-up with the QR code

History of Gospel Music by Terry Foster, Sundays - June 15, 22, 29, 11:30 am - 1 pm in the sanctuary: Join our co-director of music Terry Foster for an exploration of the history of gospel music via lecture, conversation, video and live music. With questions contact: terry@fccucc.org.

Save the Date: Portland Pride Parade and Festival, Saturday, June 21: FCC UCC will again be participating in the Portland Maine Pride Parade and Festival. Parade marchers convene at 11:30 am. Our festival table will need staffing from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. More information to come.

MISSION CORNER

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

Plan B Available: Recognizing that reproductive health care may not always be accessible, our pastors now have a supply of Plan B emergency contraceptive. Reach out to either pastor if you have need; no questions asked; full pastoral support available. Learn more about Plan B at: <https://www.webmd.com/sex/birth-control/plan-b>

IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY

How to be a Great Cis-Ally* Training, Saturday, May 31, 9 am - 1 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church in Brunswick: Led by Evangeline Weiss. Participants will dive into how we relate to gender - personally, socially and systematically - and how we can show up as stronger, more consistent allies in everyday lives. Open to those new to this work and those deep on the journey. More info at: <https://www.uubrunswick.org/events/how-to-be-a-great-cis-ally/>

* "Cis-gender" is the term used for people whose gender identity corresponds to the sex assigned at birth; not transgender.

Sea Change Chorale Spring Concert: *I Lift Up My Lamp*, Saturday, May 31, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm at Williston Immanuel Church, 156 High Street, Portland: A benefit concert supporting the Immigrant Rights Coalition, directed by Deirdre McClure, Sea Change Chorale Artistic Director and FCC Co-Director of Music.

***You Are Made to Bless*, Monday, June 2, 5-7 pm at South Congregational Church, Kennebunkport:** Lessons about blessing by the Reverend Nancy Taylor, retired Senior Minister and CEO of Old South Church, Boston. This event is part of a summer-long Blessing Project at South Congregational Church. *In July, we will participate in the project by hosting their Blessing Weaving for a week, here at FCC UCC.* The June 2 event will be held in the Community House (adjacent to the main church building). Dinner included. *Contact Pastor Alison if you are interested in attending.* revalisonpatton@fccucc.org.

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."

Also, look for us on Facebook: facebook.com/fccucc,

on Instagram: instagram.com/fccucc_s.portland

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



Congratulations on your confirmation,

Evan, Luke and Declan!



“Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey.”

- Luke 24:15b

Confirmation was built around the following six themes, defined by the United Church of Christ and explored during our Lenten *Faith Matters* series:

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- We are a people of God’s Extravagant Welcome.
 - We are a people of covenant - a united and uniting church.
 - We belong to Christ.
 - We are one at baptism and the table.
 - We thank God by working for a just and loving world.
 - We listen for the still-speaking God.

Latitude: 43.6348° N

Longitude: 70.2392° W

First Congregational Church, UCC

301 Cottage Road, South Portland, ME 04016