



Let the
Church
Shine!

**Communion Sunday:
With Boldness, Without Fear
May 3, 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.

PRELUDE *Procession on At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing* Charles Callahan

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

THRESHOLD MOMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are the Church

All: We are bearers of Christ-light

One: We are the Church

All: We are the Spirit breathing

One: We are the Church

All: We are God's hands and feet

One: To reach that New age of Love and Justice, God needs the church

All: Because we are beautiful, bold and stronger together!

OPENING HYMN *Lord, We Would be Instruments of Loving Service* #354

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Resurrection God, this Easter season, you insist that the future is not set in stone; new life is possible! When we shy away from the change that new life demands, forgive us, we pray. When we try to go it alone, urge us to find each other. Remind us that together, we burn more brightly. Together, we embody your love. Hand in hand, may we be a God-empowered force for good. 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

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Jim 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

Philippians 1:1-14

SERMON

With Boldness, Without Fear Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM

I Love to Tell the Story

Fischer/Hankey

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.



MUSICAL INTERLUDE

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table**

Responsive Prayer of Preparation**

One: How often should we gather at the table? Until the poor we now exclude from life's feast have pride of place at the Banquet.

All: Until no one is poor.

One: Until the food we bless and share only among ourselves is food blessed and shared with all the hungry.

All: Until no one is hungry.

One: Until the unjust deaths we so casually forget are remembered, and every victim resurrected.

All: Until there are no more unjust deaths.

One: Until the New Age of justice and love fully occupies our hearts, and we no longer deny mercy to the sinner, liberation to the oppressed, freedom to the captive, love to the despised or joy to the sorrowful.

All: Until that New Age comes.

One: How often should we gather at the table?

All: As often as it takes.

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.

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. 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 Anthem

23rd Psalm

Bobby McFarrin

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

Christ in Every Heart: For this moment, this meal, this gathering, we give you thanks! Now, send us out to live as changed people, because we have been touched by the living God and cannot remain the same. Enable much by us and encourage many through us, until your whole world is set free. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

Robert Lowry

My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.
I hear the sweet though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? My savior still is living.
What though the shadows gather 'round? A new song Christ is giving.
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging;
Since Love commands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells ringing;
When friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing?
In prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts to them are winging;
When friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it;
And day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing;
All things are mine since I am Christ's – how can I keep from singing?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *23 Short Pieces for Piano (V. Allegro assai)* Edvard Grieg

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WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team D, Scott Berry, captain.

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

The globe on the altar is lit in loving memory of Edward F. Saxby, Jr. (May 4, 1956-May 6, 2016), from Rev. Jill Saxby and family.

**** Invitation to the Table and Responsive Prayer** were written by Mary Luti in *Do This: Communion for Just and Courageous Living*. Adapted and 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.

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.

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 Fellowship Dinner, join Wild Seed Project's Manager of Applied Ecology, Tyler Refsland, for an engaging lecture exploring how to create a native plant habitat at home. Dinner is \$25 (inclusive of the presentation). To register: carolyn.clark353@gmail.com by May 3. 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.

NEW DATE: 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. Come for good conversation and pizza! RSVP: revalisonpatton@fccucc.org

Women's Spirit Circle, Tuesday, May 12, 7 pm - 8:30 pm, Community Room. Each evening begins with a gentle guided meditation and a few moments of quiet, followed by meaningful conversation inspired by the group. Questions? Email Nancy or Pat: at nancy.brajtbord@gmail.com or pat.thatcher123@gmail.com

Mission Trip Fundraising Dinner and Auction: Saturday evening, Saturday, 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*. Note that these books can be bought separately or in a single volume called *Monk and Robot*.

LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE

All-Church Lunch and Annual Meeting, Sunday, June 7, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm: Eat together, reflect on 2025, elect leaders and learn what's been cooking at FCC!

MISSION AND SOCIAL WITNESS

Children's Clothes Closet is opening 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 contact Danna at 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:

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

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.

WABANAKI ALLIES FORUM

**Setting Wrongs Right: Exploring Ways to Support
Our Wabanaki Neighbors.**

Sunday, May 3, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

This forum will address three topics:

- **Recent Wabanaki legislative bills passed in Maine.**
- **Sharing learnings from a Wabanaki workshop on "Decolonizing Faith Communities".**
- **Whether FCCUCC as a congregation might join the Wabanaki Alliance Coalition, which consists of 350+ organizations, including congregations, non-profits, and businesses.**

Presented by the FCCUCC Wabanaki Allies Working Group



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