



For Such a Time as This May 31, 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. Children may follow teachers to Church School after the Time for all God's Children.

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 *Morning Has Broken* Eleanor Farjeon, Arr. Jim Brickman

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

THRESHOLD MOMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Listen to the call of the creatures;

All: Notice the shifts in the weather;

One: Hear the cries of our neighbors;

All: Feel the rumbling earth.

One: The world is unsettled. God's people are in distress.

But what can we do?

All: We can listen. We can notice. We can pay attention for God's holy nudge.

We can ask each other, "What if we were made for such a time as this?"

***OPENING HYMN** *Be Thou My Vision* No. 445

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

One: Sometimes it takes a nudge to get me moving, to remind me that I have a role to play in healing God's world. When I fool myself into believing that I can escape while my neighbors suffer, I pray for forgiveness and for guidance.

All: Surely God has a role for you and will not abandon you. You were made for such a time as this.

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One: Surely God has a role for you and will not abandon you. You were made for such a time as this.

All: May God lead us on the way. Amen.

PRAYERFUL PAUSE

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

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Carol Zechman

One: God of life-renewing power, as we read these ancient texts,

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

SCRIPTURE

Esther 4:1-17

SERMON

For Such a Time as This

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM

Beside a Living Stream

American Folk Song
arr. Thomas Keesecker

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

***CLOSING HYMN**

God of Grace and God of Glory

No. 477

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Rustle of Spring

Christian Sinding

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WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team A, Terry Dallaire, captain.

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

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? Lynne: lanctotla74@gmail.com.

COMING UP @ FCC UCC

TODAY: *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. This Sunday, 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*.

FCCUCC On the Town: Breakfast at Stack's Restaurant on Rt 1, Scarborough, Wednesday, June 3, 9:00 am. You may RSVP or just show up that morning. Hope you can join us! Kathy Sahrbeck at kathrynsme@yahoo.com or 207.415.0170

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 our leaders and learn what's been cooking at FCCUCC. Don't miss it!

Women's Spirit Circle, Tuesday, June 9, 7 - 8:30 pm, Community Room: 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

Men's Fellowship, Saturday, June 13, 8 am in Wright Pavilion: For more information, contact John Grew: grewjd@gmail.com

Game Night, Tuesday, June 16, 7:00 pm, Wright Pavilion: The rumor is that cookies are now served and you can still play whatever game you prefer. All welcome, even if you don't know how to play! kathrynsme@yahoo.com

Pride Parade, Saturday, June 20, 11:30 am parade start: Details on page 7.

NEW DATE! New Member Sunday, June 28: Join us as we welcome new members during worship. Curious about joining FCCUCC? See Pastor Alison if you would like to learn more: revalisonpatton@fccucc.org.

Lemonade on the Porch and Vigil, Sunday, June 28: Join us on the weekend before 4th of July for a festive social hour and vigil on our front steps. We will honor and defend the rights of the immigrants who helped to build this country.

MISSION AND SOCIAL WITNESS

Children's Clothes Closet is now open to the public!

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

Interested in volunteering? Contact the office at revalisonpatton@fccucc.org. Messages will be passed on to Clothes Closet Coordinator, AnnElissa Leveque.

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 lefthand 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/.

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

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.

IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY

TODAY! Sea Change Chorale: My Heart Be Brave, Sunday, May 31, here at FCCUCC. No tickets needed. All donations will go to the Maine Immigrant Rights' Coalition (MIRC). Directed by our own music director, Deirdre McClure.

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

The Malaga Ship at the Maine Maritime Museum, Bath, ME, Wednesday, June 10: Beginning at 4 pm, guests are invited to enjoy free admission to Maine Maritime Museum's exhibits, including *Re/Sounding*, a powerful new exhibition centering Indigenous and Black perspectives on Maine's maritime past. Live performance of *The Malaga Ship* begins at 5 pm, with panel discussion to follow. 3 pm carpool (for those who want to see the exhibit). Return about 8:30 pm. Contact revalisonpatton@fccucc.org to join the carpool.



Parade and Festival ***Saturday June 20, 2026***

FCCUCC is excited to participate again in the Portland Maine Pride Parade and Festival! March with FCCUCC members and friends, and others from our Greater Portland multi-faith community, in celebration of the LGBTQ+ community.

10:30 am: Marchers Convene
at Monument Square

11:30 am: Parade Begins and Processes
to Deering Oaks Park

12 - 4 pm: Festival Table Staff Needed:
Contact Walter Kimball
whkimball77@gmail.com
or call the church office

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".

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





Understanding Gender and Sexuality: A 3-Part Series

**An invitation to honor Pride Month with this
rich learning opportunity.**

Join us for Three Tuesdays, 6-8 pm

Part 1: May 26

Part 2: June 2

Part 3: June 16

In a time of significant controversy concerning gender and sexuality, educator and LGBTQ+ equal rights advocate Christine Caulfield will examine claims and information about gender, drawing on the disciplines of biology, sociology, history, and political science.

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/3mmr82nk>

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