



**Set Free**  
**Communion Sunday**  
**June 1, 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 worship all together this morning. 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**

*How Blessed from the Bonds of Sin*

Paul Karvonen

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

**THRESHOLD MOMENT**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP\***

One: This is God's day, and we are invited to be a part of it.

**All: This is God's invitation: to come and see what God is doing in the world.**

One: This is what God is doing: bringing good news to the poor,

**All: And proclaiming release to the captives,**

One: Recovering sight for those who are blind

**All: And letting the oppressed go free.**

One: Let us join in and let us worship God.

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*I Woke Up This Morning*

African-American Spiritual 

**I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus [3 times]**

**Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu-u-u-u-jah.**

**Singin' and prayin' with my mind stayed on Jesus [3 times]**

**Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu-u-u-u-jah.**

**I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Freedom [3 times]**

**Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu-u-u-u-jah.**

**Singin' and prayin' with my mind stayed on Freedom [3 times]**

**Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu-u-u-u-jah.**

**PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

God who sets us free: When we insist on our own liberty, even at others' expense; when we make ourselves the center of every story; when we allow those on the margins to be erased by history, forgive us, we pray. Stir up our curiosity, open our ears to hear and our eyes to see *all* your people. Teach us to live and love in ways that will set all your people free. Amen.

**PRAYERFUL PAUSE**

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\*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

*Halle, Halle, Halle!*

Caribbean Traditional

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

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

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Victoria Goode

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

Acts 16:16-34

## SERMON

*Set Free*

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

## MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

## ANTHEM

*Softly and Tenderly*

Will L. Thompson

Meetinghouse Choir and Handbell Choir

## PASTORAL PRAYER

SUNG RESPONSE: *Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.* African-American Spiritual 

## OFFERING INVITATION

You can make a secure online gift by using the QR code, going to [fccucc.org/donate](https://fccucc.org/donate), or by adding your contribution to the box at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you!



## MUSICAL INTERLUDE

## CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Preparation

## **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 Music**      *Bread of Heaven on Thee We Feed*      Emma Lou Diemer

## **Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**God of Grace, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table, by granting us the presence of Christ. Now, strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another and send us out to live the love and justice of Jesus. Amen.**

**CLOSING SONG**      *We Are Walking*      South African Freedom Song

**Si-ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos. Si-ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos. [twice]  
Si-ya-ham-ba, hamba, si-ya-ham-ba, ham-ba, si-ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos.**

**We are walking in the light of God; we are walking in the light of God! [twice]  
We are walking, walking, we are walking, walking, we are walking in the light of God.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**      *Danza*      Tielman Susato  
Handbell Choir

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## WORSHIP NOTES

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

**The flowers on the altar** are given by Louise Davis in memory of her parents, Virginia Davis Hall and H. Austin Lederer.

**\*\*The call to worship** was written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

☰ **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 [dmcclure@fccucc.org](mailto:dmcclure@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](mailto:handbells@fccucc.org).

## 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!

**TODAY: 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@stalbansmaine.org](mailto:amber@stalbansmaine.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](mailto:terry@fccucc.org).

**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](mailto: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

***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](mailto:revalisonpatton@fccucc.org).*

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on Instagram: [instagram.com/fccucc\\_s.portland](https://instagram.com/fccucc_s.portland)

and on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/@FCCUCCSouthPortland](https://youtube.com/@FCCUCCSouthPortland)



## Showing Our True Colors This June!

In recent months, Revs. Alison Patton and Steve Savage have been participating in bi-weekly meetings with members of our Greater Portland multi-faith community.

This group has just unveiled a sign designed to convey the values we share across the multi-faith spectrum.

This banner will be displayed outside FCC UCC during the month of June.



### Greater Portland MultiFaith Community

If you would like a two-sided lawn sign with this same graphic, please contact Pastor Alison at [revalisonpatton@fccucc.org](mailto:revalisonpatton@fccucc.org) by June 4 to place your order.

There is a suggested donation of \$15 for each sign.

Help us to spread the word that people of faith believe that WE ARE... Stronger together!