We Don’t Start From Perfect…
June 14, 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.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC • SO. PORTLAND, ME •

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A Note for Families / Folks of All Ages: During the summer, we do not have church school, but young people are encouraged to check our narthex during the service for simple crafts or activities.

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 *The Seasons, Op. 37a, 6. June: Barcarolle* Pyotr Tchaikovsky

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

THRESHOLD MOMENT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We are called by the Spirit of Grace!
All: Called to be God's voice, hands, and face!
One: We are called to be neighbors, to be community!
All: Called as one body, to resist and to risk,
Sent forth to love in a world such as this!
One: So let us as one people, as an act of worship,
raise up our voices and our hearts to the God of love!

***OPENING HYMN** *We Are Your People* No. 373

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

When we stop listening,
and we stop paying attention to what our world needs now,
When we assume we know it all,
or we have it all figured out, forgive us.
Hold your lens of love to our eyes that we might see that we are called
to serve not only those we know, but those we've never met,
not only those who live and love and look like us,
but the whole diversity of your creation,
not only those with whom we agree,
but those with whom we struggle and we clash as well.
Free us from shame when we fall short of loving perfectly,
and urge us to grow and to learn to love as Christ did, Amen.

PRAYERFUL PAUSE

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

SUNG WORDS OF ASSURANCE Libby Roderick

How could anyone ever tell you, you were anything less than beautiful?
How could anyone ever tell you, you were less than whole?
How could anyone fail to notice that your loving is a miracle,
How deeply you're connected to my soul?

PASSING OF THE PEACE One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

***SUNG RESPONSE** *Shine, Jesus, Shine* (Refrain Only) Kendrick

Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with your
love and justice!
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire!

Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with
grace and mercy.
Send forth your Word, God
And let there be life!

TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Deb Small

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 *Matthew 9:35-10:8*

SERMON *We Don't Start From Perfect…* Rev. Steve Savage

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM *Canticle of the Turning* Rory Cooney, Arr, Mark Hayes

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father-Mother in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kin-dom 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 kin-dom 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 OUR GIFTS

***CLOSING HYMN** *Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race* No. 372

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Over the Rainbow* Harold Arlen, Arr.Susi Weiss

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WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team B, Peggy Murray, 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 Rev. Steve Savage.

Meetinghouse Choir will be off for the summer beginning the week of June 8. Rehearsals will resume in late August. Questions? Contact choir director Deirdre McClure at dmcclure@fccucc.org.

Ring for Joy Handbell Choir will be off for the summer beginning the week of June 8. Rehearsals will resume in late August. For information about the handbell choir please contact director Sharon Potter at 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

Sign Making THIS Sunday, June 14; folks are invited to make signs during social hour in Wright Pavilion for the June 28 vigil.

Understanding Gender and Sexuality Workshop Series, one more Tuesday, June 16, 6 pm - 8 pm: Educator Christine Caulfield draws on the fields of biology, history and social science in this content-rich course. Want to attend the last class? RSVP Pastor Alison at revalisonpatton@fccucc.org

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. We would love to have you play games with us. All are welcome, even if you don't know how to play! Questions? Contact Kathy Sahrbeck: kathrynsme@yahoo.com

Fair Fancy Crafters - Thursday, June 18, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Crafters will meet in the 5th floor crafting room on June 18.

Saturday Crafters Workshop, June 27, 10-3 pm, Laity Room (the Studio).
Feel free to stop by as you are able. We welcome anyone who is interested in being -- or learning to be -- creative. We provide all materials and instruction. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Gin Gedney at 207-318-1581. We look forward to seeing you.

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

The Wabanaki Allies Working Group, Sunday, June 21, 11:30 to 12:30 in the Davidson Lounge.

Women's Spirit Circle, Tuesday, June 23, 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

FCC On the Town, Thursday, June 25, Lady Mary Inn Tea Room, North Berwick: We will leave the church at 10:00 am for High Tea. Please RSVP by June 15 to Kathy Sahrbeck at 415-0170 or kathrynsme@yahoo.com. $45 per person. If cost is a barrier, contact Pastor Alison for assistance. We'd love to have you!

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.

Book Group, Sunday, June 28, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm: Join FCCUCC member Chuck Warner and Pastor Steve to discuss *A Prayer for the Crown Shy*, Becky Chambers.

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 stores. Scan the code on the bags and the refunds will automatically be donated to our FCC mission team. *Thank you!*

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

BTS Center's Summer Fiction Book Club discusses *The Seed Keeper,* by Diane Wilson, June 18, 11:30 am – 1 pm on Zoom: "A haunting novel spanning several generations, *The Seed Keeper* follows a Dakhóta family's struggle to preserve their way of life, and their sacrifices to protect what matters most." This is the first of three novels being discussed this summer. Join others in a meaning-making discussion designed to help us " to make sense of the hurting, beautiful, and singular planet we call home." Check out Book Club details at https://thebtscenter.org/fiction/

PRIDE PORTLAND!

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

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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