



Peace, Be Still.

Sunday Worship July 27, 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 seating area, for worshippers of any age to use during the service.

PRELUDE *How Can I Keep From Singing (My Life Flows On)* Author Unknown

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Sing praises to God, O faithful ones; Give thanks to God's holy name!

All: When storms rage, God commands the wind to cease.

One: When fear or despair threatens to swamp us

All: God buoys us with courage and calm.

One: When the suffering of the world overwhelms

All: God lifts our heads, steadies our feet and strengthens our hearts.

One: Sing praises to God, O faithful ones; Give thanks to God's holy name!

***OPENING HYMN** *Michael, Row the Boat Ashore* African American Spiritual

Michael row the boat ashore, hallelujah

Michael row the boat ashore, hallelujah

Sister help to trim the sails, hallelujah

Sister help to trim the sails, hallelujah

Michael row the boat ashore, hallelujah

Michael row the boat ashore, hallelujah

Jordan's River is deep and wide,

hallelujah

And I've got a home on the other side,

hallelujah

Michael row the boat ashore, hallelujah

Michael row the boat ashore, hallelujah

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

God Who Calms the Sea: Some days we get overwhelmed by the world's troubles.

When we allow our distress to spill out in hurtful words or actions, re-compose us.

When we sleep through the cries of our neighbors in distress, forgive us, we pray.

Teach us the difference between passing showers and destructive storms. Give us

patience to weather the first, and courage and persistence to navigate the second.

May we trust in Your calm to guide us through every gale and learn to embody your peace. Amen.

PRAYERFUL PAUSE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

***SUNG RESPONSE** *I've Got Peace Like a River* African American Spiritual 

1. I've got peace like a river (3 times)...In my soul.

2. I've got joy like a fountain...

3. I've got love like an ocean...

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Darcy Halverson

One: This is the sacred story of God's journey with God's people.

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

SCRIPTURE

Mark 4:35-41

SERMON

Peace. Be Still.

Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM

Shall We Gather At the River

Robert Lowry

COMMUNITY AT PRAYER

Peace; be still. Peace; be still. The storm rages. Peace; be still. Stephen Iverson

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

Peace; be still. Peace; be still. The storm rages. Peace; be still.

TESTIMONY

Signs of Flourishing

Pat Thatcher

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

CLOSING HYMN

Down By the Riverside

African American Spiritual 

**Gonna lay down my sword and shield, Down by the riverside, Down by the riverside,
Gonna lay down my sword and shield, Down by the riverside, to study war no more.**

Refrain:

**I ain't goin' to study war no more, ain't goin' to study war no more,
ain't goin' to study war no more. I ain't goin' to study war no more,
ain't goin' to study war no more, ain't goin' to study war no more.**

Gonna talk to the Prince of Peace down by the riverside...

[Refrain]

Goin' to lay down my burden down by the riverside...

[Refrain]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Do Lord, O Do Lord

African American Spiritual 

* * * * *

Join us for lemonade and lawn games after worship.

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team B, Peggy Murray, captain.

The flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of both our Dads, "Papa & Pepe," Ronnie Christie and Roger Borelli Sr., by Judith, Shane, Nicolas and Luke Borelli.

Thank you to guest musician Bruce Martell for contributing music to our outdoor worship!

■ **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.

CLERGY SCHEDULE

Rev. Alison Patton, Senior Pastor, will be away on vacation August 1 – 23.

Rev. Steve Savage will be returning from sabbatical on August 11.

For pastoral matters August 1-10, please leave a message at the main number: (207) 799-3361. Messages will be checked periodically during the week and urgent pastoral matters will be referred as needed.

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 will continue their Tuesday tradition of worship reflection. All are welcome!

Meetinghouse Choir, Handbells and Handchimes are on summer recess. Rehearsals will resume on August 27.

SUMMER AT FCC UCC

Handbell Workshops coming this summer: The FCCUCC handbell director will be presenting two workshops this summer. Each hour-long workshop will be presented twice [continued next page]:

Bell Basics

Wednesday, August 13, 6:00 pm-7:00 pm

For those who want to learn how to ring handbells and play in the choir or are just curious about how the instrument works.

Advanced Ringing Techniques

Wednesday, August 13, 11:00 am-12:00 pm

For ringers with at least one year of ringing experience who would like to learn more advanced techniques.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Sharon Potter at handbells@FCCUCC.org.

Pop-up Handchime Choir on Sunday, August 10. Come at 8:30 am to learn a song or two to play during 10 am worship.

Game Day, Sunday, August 10, 11:30 am – 1 pm: 14 people attended Games Day after church on Sunday, July 13. With such a great turnout, and all the fun we had, we are planning another one! Come to Wright Pavilion for a light lunch and play any of an assortment of board games - from the silly to the strategic. Please RSVP, so we can plan to feed you: outreach@fccucc.org.

FCC UCC Goes to the Theater! For those of you who love the theater, we have one more opportunity to take in a show together this summer:

- *Grease* - Hackmatack Playhouse on **Thursday, August 14** at 2:00 pm.

Want to join us? Contact Kathy Sahrbeck to let her know you are interested (or if you have questions) at outreach@fccucc.org.

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. See the Weekly Word or email Danna Wiggins at dannawig2@gmail.com

Clynk Bags are available in the narthex (inside main entrance). Fill with returnable bottles and cans and return to a Clynk collection site near Hannaford to support FCC!

BUILDING UPDATES!

Small Parking Lot: The small church parking lot adjoining Mitchell Road is about to be repaved. The town is also scheduled to repave Mitchell Road this summer. Stay tuned for updates.

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



IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY

TODAY - Avelo: End your partnership with ICE – Demonstration organized by Indivisible: Sunday, July 27, 4-5:30 pm. Several of you expressed interest after Pastor Alison attended the first of these demonstrations earlier this month. Here's an opportunity to add your voice. From the organizers: "Avelo Airlines is partnering with ICE to deport our friends, neighbors, and loved ones. Now that they're flying out of Portland, we're showing up to make sure Mainers know exactly who they're doing business with. Avelo wants our community's dollars—but they're financially benefitting from a contract with an agency that is tearing apart our communities."

Location: Entrance to the Jetport, Intersection of Johnson Road & Jetport Blvd.
Information and registration at: <https://www.mobilize.us/indivisible/event/815547/>

Community Sing, August 3 and every other Sunday, 3:30 pm (2:45pm for anyone looking to get organized around singing at demonstrations and public events): A bi-weekly gathering to find hope in singing together. Sign up to learn about future events or to opt-in to the Response Team to sing at resistance and change events:

- To register or ask questions, email Emilia Dahlin at: emilia@emiliadahlin.com

Ideal Maine Band, Tuesdays at 6 pm, Ocean Gateway: Sing along with the Ideal Maine Band during their weekly rehearsals. It's joyous and raucous! Come for the music, the camaraderie, and the community singing. And if you're up for it, get ready to sing at upcoming protests. <https://www.idealmaineband.org/>

A DAILY BLESSING: Need a spirit-lift? Sign up to receive a daily blessing in your inbox, each morning between now and September 15. Offered as part of the **Bless Project** at South Congregational Church, UCC, in Kennebunkport.

Sign up here:

<https://www.southchurchucc.org/blessproject#daily-blessing>



Help Love and Justice to *Flourish*

Make a Summertime Gift!

In January, our congregation approved an aspirational budget, because we want ministries that spread God's love and justice to *flourish*.

We need your help to make that happen.

Gifts and pledges we have received to date won't cover all our 2025 costs.

Join our flash appeal to raise \$20,000 by August 15!

Why? When you invest in this community of faith, you help us to:

- 🌸 Gather Community 🌸 Nourish Spirits
- 🌸 Make Music 🌸 Pursue Justice
- 🌸 Care for Vulnerable Neighbors
- 🌸 Declare God's Extravagant Love
- 🌸 Equip, Bless and Cheer Each Other On!

Please make a new or additional gift today. Go to:
fccucc.org/donate ("Summer Appeal" in memo)

OR

Mail your donation to:

First Congregational Church, UCC
301 Cottage Road, South Portland, ME 04106

