



The Power of Complaining?

September 28, 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: Children are invited to go to Church School after the Time for All Ages. 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

Sicilienne Op. 78

Gabriel Fauré

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Rev. Alison Buttrick Patton and Rev. Stephen Savage

THRESHOLD MOMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth!

All: We can make a joyful noise!

One: Sing your gladness; name your worries; declare your love!

All: With clear voices we can tell our stories.

One: When you encounter injustice, lodge your complaint!

All: We can speak truth to power; we can call foul play.

One: Beloved in Christ, our voices our powerful. Let us raise them up
for love and justice.

All: Let us lift them to God in thanks and praise!

***OPENING HYMN**

God of Abraham and Sarah

#3

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Wilderness Wandering God, you promise to stick with us and sustain us on our journey. When in our fear or fatigue we become grasping or petulant, when we confuse our needs with our wants, forgive us, we pray. Assure us that there is enough to go around. Teach us the art of holy complaint, not just on our own behalf, but on behalf of all your creatures, until everyone has what they need.

PRAYERFUL PAUSE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

***SUNG RESPONSE** *Peace Like a River* African American Spiritual 𠆩

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul. [Repeat]

I've got joy like a fountain...

I've got love like an ocean...

TIME FOR ALL AGES

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Victoria Goode

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 Exodus 16:1-18

SERMON *The Power of Complaining?* Rev. Alison J. B. Patton

MOMENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

ANTHEM *Consolation No. 3* Franz Liszt

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father-Mother in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

MUSICAL RESPONSE *Amen! Amen!* African American Spiritual 𠆩

Amen! Amen! Amen, amen, amen!

OFFERING INVITATION 𠆩

Help us to live God's love and justice. You can make a secure 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

BLESSING THE OFFERING *and* QUILT PRESENTATION

CLOSING HYMN

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

#102

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Angel Eyes

Jim Brickman

* * * * *

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you to this morning's ushers: Team C, Bill Campbell, captain.

The flowers on the altar are given by the Rev. Alison Patton in gratitude for this congregation's energy, fortitude and joy.

Livestream: Thank you to Alex Ratta for managing our worship livestream, this week and every week!

☞ **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 meets from 12:30 - 1:30 pm in Davidson Lounge:

Whether you are an FCC UCC member or just interested in joining in the fun, you are invited to join our weekly bible study group, to enjoy fellowship and to discuss the scripture from the past Sunday. Led by Rev. Steve Savage. 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.

Handbells rehearse on Wednesdays, 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.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER @FCC UCC

TODAY: Financial Check-Up, Sunday, September 28, 11:15 am, sanctuary:

Following worship, come and hear from Chris Keiter, Bruce Lockwood and Rich Armstrong, for an overview of the current financial status of the church. Discuss funding sources and projected expenses for the upcoming year, and implications for the 2026 budget. We encourage questions and suggestions. This is an opportunity for us to better understand and play a part in how we raise and spend church funds.

To talk about money is to talk about ministry. How do we stay financially healthy, so we can continue to live God's love and justice? Please join us and share your creative input. Your thoughts and contributions are important!

Poster-Making for our October Vigil: Sunday, October 5 at 9 am: Join Cindy Doucette before worship in Wright Pavilion to make posters for our Oct. 12 Vigil.

World Communion Sunday with Guest Preacher, Rev. Marisa Laviola, Sunday, October 5: We will welcome our Maine Conference Minister, Rev. Laviola, and have an opportunity to meet with her following worship.

Sunday, October 12, *Defend our Democracy Vigil*, following worship: Join us outside the front entrance of the church, facing Cottage Road, as we raise our voices and our signs in defense of democracy.

Second Hour with Josh Caldwell, Natural Resources Council of Maine Climate & Clean Energy Program, Sunday, October 19, 11:30 am – 1 pm, Wright Pavilion: Josh will speak on reducing climate change through a cleaner, better transportation system in Maine. Free lunch provided; no registration necessary. (No separate coffee hour that day). Organized by our Environmental Team.

MISSION AND SOCIAL WITNESS

South Portland Food Cupboard – October Food Drive: Bring in non-perishable food donations throughout the month. Place them in the boxes located in the Narthex and by the outside door to the church office. All items will then be delivered to the Food Cupboard. Thank you so much for helping our neighbors.

Neighbors in Need offering, Sunday, October 5: Two-thirds of your donation supports the UCC's justice and witness ministries, such as the D.C. Office for Public Policy and Advocacy. One-third supports the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), which has been witnessing to Native values and culture as a vital part of the UCC since 1971. *See the bulletin back cover for more details.*

There will be NIN offering envelopes at the Oct 5 worship service. You can donate online anytime at FCCUCC.org. Use the "Other line" and note Neighbors in Need.

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

Clynk Bags are in the narthex (inside main entrance). Collect your returnable cans and bottles to support our mission and outreach efforts! Fill with returnable bottles and cans 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!*

THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Community Sing, TODAY - September 28 and every other Sunday, 3:30 pm at HopeGateway Church, 515 Woodford Street, Portland: Find hope in singing together. Sign up to learn about future events or opt-in to the Response Team to sing at resistance and change events: Emilia Dahlin at emilia@emiliadahlin.com

What If We Get It Right? Visions of Climate Futures – A Book Study with the BTS Center, 5 Tuesdays in October and November, beginning September 30, 4-6 pm: Program includes discussion *with the author* on November 4. Register at: <https://thebtscenter.org/event/what-if-we-get-it-right-book-study-2/>

Our Maine Conference UCC Annual Meeting, October 17-18, at Pilgrim Lodge. Learn more and register at: <https://www.maineucc.org/annual-meeting/>

Youth Service Corps is back! Sunday, October 19, 12 – 2 pm – Coats and Boots for St. Elizabeth Pantry: Middle and High School youth from 12 participating churches – including FCC UCC - will gather once a month for a service project and fun time together. For more info contact Amber Burks at amber@stalbandsmaine.com

CONTRIBUTE BREAD for WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY October 5, 2025



On the first Sunday in October, Christians around the globe join together in a sacred act of unity—the Lord’s Supper. Since its beginning in 1933, World Communion Sunday has reminded us that we are one body in Christ, connected through faith and love that transcend boundaries of culture, language, and nation.

We invite you to bring breads from around the world to adorn the communion table, to symbolize the diversity and beauty of the worldwide church. Following worship, these same breads will be shared at coffee hour, accompanied by butter, jams, and the fellowship of our community.



If you feel called to **contribute a loaf of bread, butter, or jam**, scan the QR code or see the *Weekly Word* to sign up.

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





Neighbors in Need

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

—Galatians 6:2

**Advocacy is essential to participating in
God's mission in the world.**

Gifts to the **Neighbors in Need** offering support ministries of justice and compassion in the United Church of Christ, including the UCC Office of Public Policy & Advocacy in Washington D.C.



The UCC Washington D.C. Office was called into being by a resolution at General Synod 10 in 1975. The office was assigned to identify, analyze, and forecast social issues which called for the attention of the church. The work has always been guided by the discernment of the UCC through General Synod gatherings and resolutions that collectively witness to God's call.

Each week the Washington D.C. Office creates an action alert to help give church members the opportunity to contact legislators simply and easily. In 2025 these weekly alerts have encouraged church members to fight for disability housing accommodations, to stop the gun violence epidemic, and to support environmental justice for all.

Thank you for your generosity!

We will receive our Neighbors in Need offering on Sunday, October 5.