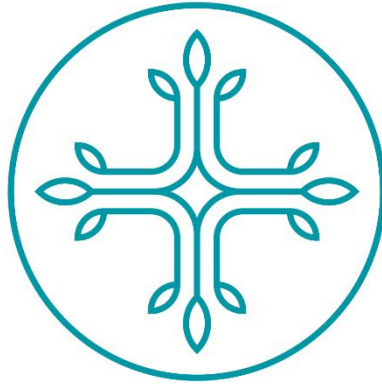




CHRIST
THE REDEEMER
—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 6, 2026

Welcome to CHRIST THE REDEEMER...

We're glad you've joined us. Whether you have followed Jesus your whole life or you can't remember the last time you stepped foot in a church, we want you to feel welcome to come as you are and worship with our church family. If you have any questions about our church or where to find something, please don't hesitate to ask. We're excited about what God is doing among us as we seek to live, grow and serve as followers of Jesus in Portland and in our surrounding neighborhoods. So, welcome to CTR, we'd love to have you as part of our family.

During our service, our nursery is open for babies who are crawlers through 3-year-olds. If you need help finding the nursery area, please ask any of our greeters!

Children's Church is in session. After the blessing each week, children age 4 – 1st grade are welcome to go to Children's Church. They will re-join their families after the sermon.

→ You may use this QR code to link to the lyrics in our worship service today.



THE RHYTHM OF OUR WORSHIP

On the road to Emmaus (Luke 24), when Jesus' disciples found themselves troubled and confused, Jesus met them along the way. When they confessed their troubles and doubts to Him, His words and presence began to change them. He unfolded God's Word to them, pointing to His own person and work. He dined with them, giving thanks and breaking bread. The disciples recognized their Lord's presence with them and hurried to tell others the good news.

In the Emmaus story, we recognize the pattern of historic Christian worship as it began to take shape. Our worship liturgy at Christ the Redeemer moves through a specific rhythm: God **SUMMONS** us as His people, God **SANCTIFIES** us to Himself, God **SPEAKS** to us in His Word, God **STRENGTHENS** us at His table, and God **SENDS** us into the world to share His grace.

The emphasis throughout our worship is upon God's action and our appropriate response. In worship, we rehearse the gospel message of Jesus' death and resurrection and are caught up into the mission of the Triune God. The flow of our liturgy aims at drawing us further into the life of the Trinity as children of God and then impelling us outward into our world.

-adapted from City Church Philadelphia Guide to Our Worship

G O D S U M M O N S

[P R A I S E]

C A L L T O W O R S H I P

[L] How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!

[P] **My soul longs, yes, faints
for the courts of the LORD;**

[L] my heart and flesh sing for joy
to the living God.

[P] **For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.**

[L] I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

[All] **Blessed are those who dwell in your house,
ever singing your praise!**

Psalm 84:1-2, 10

SONG

O GOD OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

G O D S A N C T I F I E S

[R E N E W A L]

C O N F E S S I O N O F S I N

[P] **Lord, you came to dwell among us, yet we did not recognize you. We still fail to recognize you. You show up in unexpected places and through unexpected people. We fail to see you in the people who are different from us. We fail to see you in the life you call us to live. Please open our eyes to your presence and open our hearts to your leading as we silently confess our sins to you now...Amen.**

T I M E O F S I L E N T R E F L E C T I O N A N D C O N F E S S I O N

W O R D S O F C O M F O R T A N D A S S U R A N C E O F P A R D O N

[L] Hebrews 4 says, "Having then a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold tightly to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace for help in time of need."

Sisters and brothers, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of God and the power of Christ are with you. So live boldly as citizens of the kingdom of God, where Satan has no power. Amen!

[P] **Thanks be to God!**

SONG

TURN YOUR EYES

LIFE OF THE PEOPLE
[ANNOUNCEMENTS]

NEW TO CTR? Welcome! If you would like to connect, learn more about our church or subscribe to our weekly announcement email, please use this QR code.



THE PEACE OF GOD
and THE BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

[L] May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

[P] **And also with you.**

[L] People of God, what is our prayer for these and all our children?

[All] **May the Lord be with you.**

[Children] **And also with you.**

After the blessing each week, children aged 4 – 1st grade are welcome to go to Children's Church downstairs in The Commons. They will re-join their families after the sermon.

SONG

COME LIGHT OUR HEARTS

G O D S P E A K S

[W O R D]

S C R I P T U R E[found on **pages 62, 68 & 76** in the pew Bible]

Selections from Exodus 25, 31 & 40 ESV

Read by Haylee Freeman

25 The Lord said to Moses, ²“Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. ⁸ And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. ⁹ Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

31 The Lord said to Moses, ²“See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, ³and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, ⁴to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, ⁵in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft. ⁶ And behold, I have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. And I have given to all able men ability, that they may make all that I have commanded you: ⁷the tent of meeting, and the ark of the testimony, and the mercy seat that is on it, and all the furnishings of the tent, ⁸the table and its utensils, and the pure lampstand with all its utensils, and the altar of incense, ⁹and the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the basin and its stand, ¹⁰and the finely worked garments, the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons, for their service as priests, ¹¹and the anointing oil and the fragrant incense for the Holy Place. According to all that I have commanded you, they shall do.”

40 ¹⁶This Moses did; according to all that the Lord commanded him, so he did. ¹⁷In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected.

³⁴Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. ³⁵And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. ³⁶Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. ³⁷But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸For the cloud of the Lord was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

[L] The grass withers and the flower fades,
but the Word of God stands forever.

Isaiah 40:8

The Word of the Lord.

[P] **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Series:
LEAVING EGYPT, FINDING HOME

Sermon:
HOME AND THE GOD WHO DWELLS WITH US

Rev. Alden D. Groves
Associate Pastor

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A #1

[L] What is your only comfort in life and in death?

[P] **That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

SONG

MESSENGER DOXOLOGY #1

G O D S T R E N G T H E N S

[T A B L E]

C E L E B R A T I N G H O L Y C O M M U N I O N

A Word about Communion: Communion is the family meal of Christians. Baptized believers actively looking to Jesus as their hope for salvation are warmly invited to share in this meal with us as our brothers and sisters.

- *Please follow the directions given by the pastor in how to come to the front to receive the elements and then return to your seat.*
- *Once you receive the bread and wine/juice, please hold on to it as you return to your seat. We will partake together as one body after everyone has received the elements.*
- *Children and those who are not partaking are also welcome to approach the servers for a prayer or word of God's blessing. We ask that you fold your hands as you approach so the server is aware.*
- *Please dispose of your communion cups and any other trash in the wastebasket located at the back of the sanctuary as you leave today. Thank you!*

W O R D S O F I N V I T A T I O N & I N S T I T U T I O N

P R A Y E R O F T H A N K S G I V I N G

P A R T A K I N G O F T H E E L E M E N T S

S O N G

THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS

PRAYERS OF REFLECTION

PRAYER FOR THOSE SEARCHING FOR TRUTH

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the Way, the Truth and the Life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding for you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

PRAYER OF BELIEF

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THOSE STRUGGLING WITH SIN

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking only to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

G O D S E N D S

[MISSION]

R E S P O N S E S O F J O Y

O F F E R I N G O U R L I V E S A N D R E S O U R C E S

[our tithes and offerings]



If you would like to give online, please use this QR code:
This takes you to our online giving portal.

SONG

CHRIST IS MINE FOREVERMORE

B E N E D I C T I O N a n d S E N D I N G

[L] Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

[All] **Thanks be to God!**

[L] Go now, and be a diverse people, who having gathered around the table of God's grace, extend his grace to others.

[All] **Amen.**

HIGHLIGHTS

September 6, 2026

NEW TO CTR? Welcome! If you would like to connect, learn more about our church or subscribe to our weekly announcement email, please use this QR code.



ON THE CALENDAR

FALL LAUNCH NEIGHBORHOOD COOKOUT

SUNDAY, SEPT 13 – After the Worship Service | CTR, 61 Neal St, Portland

Join us on **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**, as we celebrate our Fall Launch with a cookout! Following worship, we'll gather for an afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun—and we warmly invite our West End neighbors to join us. There will also be things for the kids to do!

Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, drinks, and cookies will be provided. Members of the congregation are invited to **bring a side dish or dessert to share**. Please keep your dish in a cooler, as refrigerator space will not be available during the service or cookout.

Table seating will be provided, but feel free to **bring a lawn chair** if you'd like to sit near the children's activities or on the lawn.

We hope you'll join us as we begin a new ministry year, reconnect after the summer, and extend a warm welcome to our neighbors!

For more information, please contact Claire Roberts at clerkus@gmail.com or 956-270-2565.

INQUIRERS' CLASS

SUNDAYS, beginning SEPT 20 – 9 AM in the Meeting Room

Interested in learning more about CTR? Considering joining our church as a member? Come to our Inquirers' Class! This is a great opportunity to hear about our heart and our history as a church, to interact with our leaders and staff, to meet other newcomers, and to ask your questions about who we are and what we do.

Attending the class does not mean you have to join the church now. However, if you would like to become a member, the Inquirers' Class is a prerequisite.



SIGN UP HERE

Questions? Contact Pastor Alden Groves at agroves@ctrportland.org or 215-704-0132.

NEW TO CTR DESSERT NIGHT

MONDAY, SEPT 21 – 6 PM - The Roberts', 64 Brook Rd, Portland

If you are new—or still feel new—to Christ the Redeemer, we would love to have you join us for a relaxed evening of dessert and conversation at the home of Sean and Claire Roberts. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet others, learn more about CTR, and begin building connections within our church community.

Join us on Monday evening, September 21, at 64 Brook Road in Portland. Whether you have been attending for just a few weeks or for several months, you are warmly invited. We hope you'll come!

IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDIES

Beginning SEPTEMBER 26 – In The Commons

Do you desire to go deeper in God's word in community with others? Join us for a weekly bible study at the church. This fall, we will begin going through the book of Galatians, diving into Scripture together as we learn what it means to experience freedom through our identity in Christ. Be sure to sign up so we can make sure we have materials and discussion table placements for all.

Men's Study **Saturdays, 6:45 AM**, beginning September 26, in The Commons
Women's Study **Thursdays, 6:15 PM**, beginning October 1, in The Commons

Questions? Contact Pastor Sean Roberts (SRoberts@CTRPortland.org) or Director of Community Development, Amanda McKrell (AMcKrell@CTRPortland.org).



SIGN UP HERE

BOOKS & BUBBLY

WEDNESDAY, OCT 7 – 7:00 PM | 64 Brook Road, Portland

Join us for our next **Ladies' Books & Bubbly** gathering on **Wednesday, October 7, at 7:00 PM!**

This meeting's selection is *Magpie Murders* by Anthony Horowitz—a clever mystery within a mystery. When an editor receives the latest manuscript from a bestselling crime writer, she discovers that the final chapters are missing—and that the author's own sudden death may hold clues to more than one murder. Full of twists, puzzles, and classic whodunit charm, it should give us plenty to talk about!

Whether you finish every page or simply want to enjoy a relaxed evening of conversation and connection, we'd love to have you join us!

For more information, please contact Claire Roberts at clerkus@gmail.com or 956-270-2565.



-CHRIST THE REDEEMER-

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Belong. Lean in. Launch out.

CTR Community Groups

launch mid-September, but our planning has already begun.
We'd love to reserve a place for you!

Whether you're a returning member, joining for the first time,
or not sure yet — we'd love to hear from every household.

PLEASE RESPOND BY **AUGUST 23.**

ABOUT COMMUNITY GROUPS:

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY GROUP?

Community Groups are smaller, regular gatherings in one another's homes — a place to share meals, open Scripture, and pray for each other as we learn to follow Christ in our everyday lives: our workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and friendships. *Want the fuller picture?*



[Visit the Community Groups page](#)

HOW DOES GROUP PLACEMENT WORK?

We'll help match you/your family to a group nearby based on your neighborhood and schedule. If you're continuing in a group, we'll be in touch to confirm your spot; if you're new or requesting a change, we'll follow up with a recommendation soon after you respond.

HOW DO I RESPOND?

It's simple:

- **[Fill out the form](#)** (use the QR code): We'll be in touch soon!
- Or email Amanda McKrell, Director of Community Development, at amckrell@ctrportland.org.



In Community Groups, our goal is to deepen our love for one another, our love for God, and our love for our neighbors. We do this by spending regular time together, growing in friendship, and initiating ongoing conversations that grow our confidence to follow Christ in our daily lives.



CTRKids

Gospel-centered, Nurturing, Fun
CTRKids is re-launching next month!

CTRKids exists to partner with families in raising the next generation of disciples who know the Gospel, love Jesus, and live out their faith with confidence and joy.



Our Planning starts with you!

We are already preparing for a great year ahead, and we want to make sure we have the most up-to-date information for your family.

Please take a moment to complete the Family Information Update using the QR code below.

Scan the QR code or visit
<https://ctrportland.breezechms.com/form/e72237> to fill out the
Family Information Update by September 13.



We are re-launching Children's Church, Christian Formation classes and Youth Group!



Children's Church

Kids who are 4 years old-1st grade will be dismissed during the sermon to learn about the Elements of Worship in age-appropriate ways!



Christian Formation Classes

Offered for kids who are potty trained-middle school, these smaller classes study the stories in the Bible!



Youth Group

For 6th grade and up-come hang out, grab some food, build friendships, and grow in your faith. We meet every other Wednesday night!

The Elements of Worship curriculum helps kids understand and participate in the different parts of our worship service in **Children's Church** and beyond!

All kids can follow along with our new interactive CTRKids Order of Worship,
available on the Kids Table in the foyer each Sunday!



CF Classes

Sundays from 9:00-9:45

Ram Island	Potty Trained-Kindergarten	Nursery	The Gospel Project
Bug Light	1st-2nd grade	The Corner Room (old nursery)	The Gospel Project
Two Lights	3rd-5th grade	The Commons (large room downstairs)	The Gospel Project
Head Light	6th grade+	Downstairs Foyer	The Gospel Project

Our **Christian Formation classes** use The Gospel Project curriculum, helping kids of every age see how the whole Bible points to Jesus. With age-appropriate lessons and **resources to help parents continue the conversation at home**, we will grow together in knowing and loving God and his great story of redemption!

We Need You!

CTRKids is growing, and we need **you**! Whether you love teaching, welcoming families, playing with kids, or simply want to lend a hand, there's a place for you.

Please reach out to Abby Reid if you are interested in volunteering.

Phone: 404.723.4448 E-mail: areid@ctrportland.org



DEEP ROOTS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As part of our **Deep Roots Capital Campaign**, we've invited everyone in our community to prayerfully consider how they can support the next chapter of our church's life together.



TO
PLEDGE
ONLINE

If you would prefer to make a pledge online, please visit our **online pledge form**—and feel free to share the link with friends, family, or others in your circle who believe in the mission of our church.

Every gift, every conversation, and every step of faith helps us put down deep roots for generations to come.

SERVE...

At CTR, we believe that part of what makes the church a beautiful place is that it draws people with various passions and gifts into one body. Below are some opportunities to use your passions and gifts to serve one another and our local community.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRIESAbby Reid
Phone: 404.723.4448
E-mail: areid@ctrportland.org

WELCOME TEAM MINISTRY Abby Reid
Phone: 404.723.4448
E-mail: areid@ctrportland.org

MEALS MINISTRY Tammy Locke
Phone: 207.671.0936
E-mail: tam74maine@gmail.com

MUSIC..... Kendra Hollen
Phone: 207.272.4104
E-mail: khollen@ctrportland.org

SPECIAL EVENTS.....Claire Roberts
Phone: 956.270.2565
E-mail: clerkus@gmail.com

How Do I Get and Stay Connected at CTR?

At CTR we long for clear communication and deep bonds. We are excited that you're interested in being more connected and involved. The following is a list of our communication channels and their purpose in the life of our body:

1. EMAIL NEWSLETTER (*Keeping in Touch*)

This is the primary vehicle by which we communicate regarding the life of our church. Most weeks you will receive an email with announcements and upcoming events. From time to time, our elders will also use this vehicle for church-wide or members only correspondence. **NOTE:** *If you are not regularly checking your email from CTR, it will be difficult to feel and be connected in the life of our church. [Use this QR code to sign up for the email.]*



2. CTR APP & TEXT MESSAGES

The CTR App is designed to help those in our church interact with each other. It is largely crowd sourced and includes information on informal meetups, prayer requests, live and past sermons/services, different hobby groups, ways to give, etc. [See page 18 to download the App.]

Text Messages are sent exclusively as reminders about events in the days/hours immediately beforehand.

3. SUNDAY MORNINGS

Sunday mornings employ several communication methods, including written **announcements in our Order of Worship**, verbally highlighted **announcements**, and (new) **projected announcements** running before and after the service. Sunday Morning announcements are focused on pointing people to events and ministries that help them explore or integrate more fully into the life of our church. Given the diverse backgrounds and circumstances of those attending Sunday Morning Worship, only on rare and exceptional occasions will these vehicles be used by leadership for information that is primarily member focused.

4. CTR WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

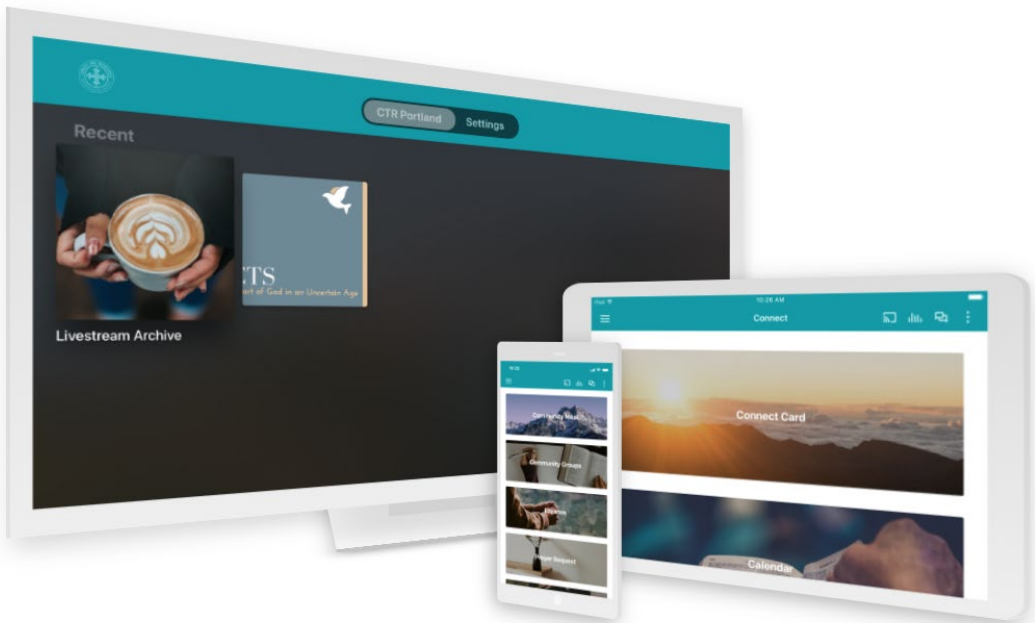
Both mediums are designed to be primarily outward facing.

The CTR Website [ctrportland.org] is designed to be our front door– a welcoming place for new people to discover and learn about our church. It is minimal in announcements and church life information.

Social Media [Instagram & Facebook] is used for promotion of church events. People are encouraged to “re-post” as a way of sharing with and inviting their friends. [@ctrportland]

If you would like to access or have had difficulty accessing any of these vehicles, please contact ctr@ctrportland.org. Our admin, Cheryl Sullivan, is happy to help you get integrated into our communication systems.

DOWNLOAD THE CTR APP!





**CHRIST
THE REDEEMER**
—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—

Christ the Redeemer Presbyterian Church
longs to be a diverse people who gather around
and extend the table of God's grace.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:00 AM

Reverend Sean J.S. Roberts, Lead Pastor

E-mail: SRoberts@CTRPortland.org
Tel. 956.207.1398

Reverend Alden D. Groves, Associate Pastor

E-mail: AGroves@CTRPortland.org
Tel. 215.704.0132

**Kendra Hollen,
Music Ministry Director**

[E-Mail: khollen@CTRPortland.org]

**Amanda McKrell,
Director of Community Development**

[E-mail: amckrell@CTRPortland.org]

**Abby Reid,
Children's Ministry Director**

[E-Mail: areid@CTRPortland.org]

Cheryl Sullivan, Administrator

[E-Mail: ctr@CTRPortland.org]

In need of assistance?

If you're experiencing a material need beyond what you can manage, the CTR Deacons may be able to help. Please call them at 207-331-1304 or email deacons@ctrportland.org. All inquiries will remain confidential, and you will receive a reply within twenty-four hours.

CTR is located at
61 NEAL STREET, PORTLAND, ME 04102
207.878.1211 | <https://ctrportland.org>