

CHRIST  
THE REDEEMER  
—PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
February 8, 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 – 1<sup>st</sup> 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] Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;

[P] **there is no end to his greatness.**

[L] One generation shall praise your works to another

[P] **and shall declare your power.**

[L] All your works praise you, Lord,

[P] **and your faithful servants bless you.**

[L] They make known the glory of your kingdom

[P] **and speak of your power.**

[L] My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord,

[P] **let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.**

based on Psalm 145:3-4, 10-11, 21

## SONG

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

**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

Led by Rev. Dr. Per Almquist

*Pastor, Free Grace Presbyterian Church, Lewiston**Clerk, Northern New England Presbytery*

[All] **Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name through Christ, our Lord. 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] This is the message we have heard from God and proclaim to you, that God is light and in God there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light, as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

I John 1:5, 7

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

## S O N G

HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US

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 – 1<sup>st</sup> grade are welcome to go to Children's Church downstairs in The Commons. They will re-join their families after the sermon.*

## SONG

BE THOU MY VISION

**G O D S P E A K S**

[ W O R D ]

S C R I P T U R E

2 Corinthians 5:11-21 ESV

Read by Elizabeth Groves

*The Ministry of Reconciliation*

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. <sup>12</sup> We are not commanding ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. <sup>13</sup> For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup> and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

[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:  
THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

Rev. Sean J. S. Roberts

*Lead Pastor*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

## Heidelberg Catechism Q &amp; A's #1 &amp; 2

[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.**

[L] What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

[P] **Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.**

## SONG

DOXOLOGY [OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>]

# INSTALLATION OF REV. ALDEN DAVIS GROVES

## THE VOWS FOR REV. ALDEN D. GROVES

Led by Rev. Sean J.S. Roberts

1. *Are you now willing to serve this congregation as their associate pastor, agreeable to your declaration in accepting its call?*
2. *Do you conscientiously believe and declare, as far as you know your own heart, that, in taking upon you this charge, you are influenced by a sincere desire to promote the glory of God and the good of the Church?*
3. *Do you solemnly promise that, by the assistance of the grace of God, you will endeavor faithfully to discharge all the duties of an associate pastor to this congregation, and will be careful to maintain a deportment in all respects becoming a minister of the Gospel of Christ, agreeable to your ordination engagements?*

## THE VOWS FOR THE CONGREGATION

Led by Rev. Sean J.S. Roberts

1. *Do you, the people of this congregation, continue to profess your readiness to receive Rev. Alden Davis Groves, whom you have called to be your associate pastor?*
2. *Do you promise to receive the word of truth from his mouth with meekness and love, and to submit to him in the due exercise of discipline?*
3. *Do you promise to encourage him in his labors, and to assist his endeavors for your instruction and spiritual edification?*
4. *Do you engage to continue to him while he is your associate pastor that competent worldly maintenance which you have promised, and to furnish him with whatever you may see needful for the honor of religion and for his comfort among you?*

**LAYING ON OF HANDS, PRAYER,  
AND THE RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP**

Led by Rev. Sean J.S. Roberts and Rev. Dr. Per Almquist

**DECLARATION OF INSTALLATION**

Rev. Sean J.S. Roberts

**CHARGE TO ASSOCIATE PASTOR ALDEN D. GROVES  
AND TO THE CONGREGATION**

Rev. Stephen Magee

*Former Pastor, Exeter Presbyterian Church, Exeter, NH*

*Honorably Retired*

**PRAYER FOR REV. ALDEN D. GROVES AND THE CONGREGATION**

Elder Quincy Freeman

**SONG**

MESSENGER DOXOLOGY #1

**G O D   S T R E N G T H E N S**

[ T A B L E ]

## CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

*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!*

## WORDS OF INVITATION &amp; INSTITUTION

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

## PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

## SONG

BEHOLD THE LAMB

## 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**

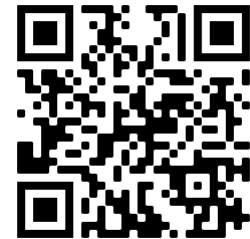
[ M I S S I O N ]

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

[ o u r t i t h e s a n d o f f e r i n g s ]

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



## SONG

W E W I L L F E A S T I N T H E H O U S E O F Z I O N

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

[L] The Lord bless you  
and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

Amen.

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

# HIGHLIGHTS

February 8, 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.



## 1 ON THE CALENDAR

### INQUIRERS' CLASS (SPRING)

***SUNDAYS - 9 AM | 61 Neal Street, Portland***

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Are you new to our church? If you're interested in learning more about CTR's history, vision, values, and practices, come join us for our upcoming Inquirers' Class. This is a great opportunity to learn more about who we are, to ask questions, and to meet and engage with other newcomers, as well as key leaders and staff. This class is also a prerequisite for church membership, for those interested.

The class will take place on Sunday mornings at 9am -- before the service. It begins on February 8.

**Questions?** Contact Pastor Alden Groves at [agroves@ctrportland.org](mailto:agroves@ctrportland.org) or 215-704-0132.

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

***MONDAYS – 6:00 PM | 29 Lilac Lane, New Gloucester***

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Our winter/spring Women's Bible Study has begun. Supper will be provided as we gather each week. Together we'll walk through God's Word and encourage one another in faith.

**Questions?** Contact Laura Wiersma at [lwiersma@ctrportland.org](mailto:lwiersma@ctrportland.org) or 603.566.7746.

## 1 ON THE CALENDAR

### 💡 CTR ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT

**SAT, FEB 14 – 5 – 7:30 PM | 61 Neal Street, Portland**

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Join us for a fun and relaxed Trivia Night on Saturday, February 14. It's a great opportunity to enjoy community, friendly competition, and a casual Valentine's evening together.

#### Event Details:

- Teams will be randomly assigned
- Pizza will be provided
- A prize will be awarded to the winning team

#### Kids & Childcare:

- Babysitting will be available for children up to age 8
- Children will enjoy a Valentine's-themed craft
- Kids aged 8 and older are welcome to join a trivia team

USE THIS CODE TO LET  
US KNOW YOU ARE  
COMING!



For more information, please contact Claire Roberts @ [clerkus@gmail.com](mailto:clerkus@gmail.com) or 956.270.2565.

## 2 MEN'S DROP-IN

**WED, FEB 11 – 5 – 6:30 PM | 50 Industrial Way, Portland**

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Men are invited to join us at **Allagash Brewing** on **Wednesday, February 11**, from **5:00–6:30 pm** for a casual time of conversation and fellowship. No agenda — just an easy opportunity to connect midweek. Come when you can and stay as you're able.

## 3 DEACONS FUND SUNDAY

**SUN, FEB 15**

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Each quarter, we set aside a Sunday to prayerfully consider giving above and beyond our regular offering to support the Deacons Fund. These gifts go directly toward caring for individuals and families in our church and community who are facing financial hardship.

If you feel led to contribute, mark your gift "Deacons Fund" or select that option when giving online. Thank you for being part of this quiet, faithful work of care and compassion.

## 1 ON THE CALENDAR

### † ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

**WED, FEB 18 – 6:15 PM | 61 Neal Street, Portland**

As we step into the season of Lent, we invite you to join us for our **Ash Wednesday Service on February 18**. This sacred gathering marks the beginning of a season of reflection, repentance, and renewal as we prepare our hearts for Easter.

Ash Wednesday reminds us of our need for God's grace, calling us to turn our hearts toward him in humility and dependence. Through song, prayer, Scripture, and the imposition of ashes, we acknowledge our human frailty and embrace the hope of Christ's redemption.

Whether this is a long-standing tradition for you or a new experience, we encourage you to come and begin this journey toward the cross with us. May this service be a time to realign our hearts, seek God's presence, and walk together in the way of Christ.

Join us on February 18 as we enter into this holy season with reverence and expectation.

### LENT & EASTER CHOIR

As we enter this season of spiritual preparation, we invite you to experience Lent in a deeper way by joining our choir. Music has a unique power to bring peace and reflection during challenging times. Whether you've sung with us before or are curious about joining for the first time, please consider joining us in 'making a joyful noise'.

There is a form with more information at this QR code or email Kendra Hollen at [khollen@ctrportland.org](mailto:khollen@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.

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.

 **TO  
PLEDGE  
ONLINE**

## COMMUNITY GROUPS

*Belong. Lean in. Launch out.*

Whether you're brand new to CTR or have been here for years, **community groups are for you!**

These smaller gatherings meet regularly in homes throughout Greater Portland. Together we:

- Form friendships
- Share meals
- Pray for and engage one another throughout the week
- Encourage one another to live on mission in our everyday contexts

### Why join a group?

Community groups are the primary way we care for and grow with one another at CTR. No matter your age, stage, or point in your faith journey, you'll find a place to belong, be challenged, and grow as a disciple of Jesus. We'll learn to keep asking each other: *Where has Christ placed you to serve him this time tomorrow?*

For any questions or concerns, email: [amckrell@ctrportland.org](mailto:amckrell@ctrportland.org).

**New to CTR or to community groups?** We would love you to join us!

Scan the QR code to sign up or email [amckrell@ctrportland.org](mailto:amckrell@ctrportland.org).



# 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 MINISTRIES ..... Abby Reid  
Phone: 404.723.4448  
E-mail: areid@ctrportland.org

GREETER 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

SET-UP ..... EJ Kruse  
Phone: 814-392-4810  
E-mail: ejkruse89@gmail.com

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

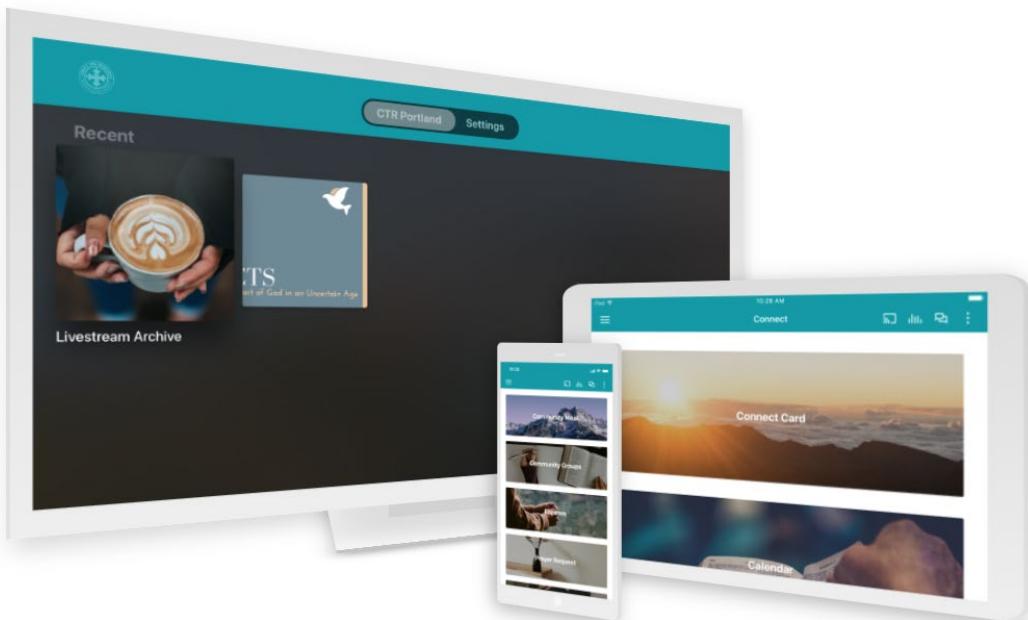
Both mediums are designed to be primarily outward facing.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:SRoberts@CTRPortland.org)  
Tel. 956.207.1398

**Reverend Alden D. Groves, Associate Pastor**

E-mail: [AGroves@CTRPortland.org](mailto:AGroves@CTRPortland.org)  
Tel. 215.704.0132

**Kendra Hollen,  
Music Ministry Director**  
[E-Mail: [khollen@CTRPortland.org](mailto:khollen@CTRPortland.org)]

**Amanda McKrell,  
Director of Community Development**  
[E-mail: [amckrell@CTRPortland.org](mailto:amckrell@CTRPortland.org)]

**Abby Reid,  
Children's Ministry Director &  
Connections Coordinator**  
[E-Mail: [areid@CTRPortland.org](mailto:areid@CTRPortland.org)]  
**Cheryl Sullivan, Administrator**  
[E-Mail: [ctr@CTRPortland.org](mailto: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](mailto: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>