

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Ellsworth, Maine



Founded in 1812

*Come with hope or despair,
expectation, or disappointment, and
seek God even as God seeks you.*

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 17, 2024

10 a.m.

*Hearing devices and large print hymnals are available—
please ask an usher if you require them.*

Thank you for turning off electronic devices before worship begins.

**Please stand if you are able.*

RINGING THE BELL

9:45 a.m.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Larson

Ag Criost An Siot

O’Riada 7015562

Salley Gardens

Trad. Irish 3163238

WELCOME

INTROIT (all)

In This Very Room

295

In this very room there is quite enough love for one like me,
And in this very room there is quite enough joy for one like me;
And there’s quite enough hope, and quite enough power,
To chase away any gloom, for Jesus, Lord Jesus, is in this very room.

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

One: The season of Lent can be barren and lonely.

All: But Jesus walks with us through the wilderness

One: Our lives are lived in seasons of transitions and transformations.

All: Lent is a time to ponder God’s Providence and persistence.

One: Together we seek fruitfulness, for it has been promised to us.

All: The barrenness of Lent will give way to the fruitfulness of Easter.

One: In this season of penitence and pondering, let us gather before God.

**All: We come as a family, to wait for the Lord with strength and
courage.**

ALL: Come, let us worship our Lord!.

*HYMN

The Old Rugged Cross

548

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

From Dimitril of Rostov

Come, my light and illuminate my darkness.

Come, my life, and revive me from death.

Come, my physician and heal my wounds.

Come, flame of divine love, and burn up the thorns of my sin, kindling my heart with the flame of The love.

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Hymn

Jesus Loves Me

113

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

Our Father, who art 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Amazing Grace

Newton 546

Kathrine Schrader and Alexis Smith

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Mother of all wisdom and father of surprise, dear lord, Your thoughts are not our thoughts, nor are Your ways our ways. Open our minds AND our hearts so that You may teach us Your thoughts and Your ways and that we may know and love them. When we are bored or preoccupied, or closed, open us with Your love, that we may recognize You in the simplest of things, and thus, might follow You faithfully. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament	Jeremiah 31:31-34	p.694 OT
Psalms	119:9-16	p.529 OT
Gospel	Mark 10:13-16	p.40 NT

SERMON We're All Kids on This Bus Hunt Gressitt

*HYMN *When I Survey the Wonderful Cross* 195

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Nancy, John, Marianne & Alice.

Choral Response *Amen* 316

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES (Mail to PO Box 12, Ellsworth, 04605)

OFFERTORY *I Cannot Tell* Trad.Irish 5005957

*DOXOLOGY 46

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

God in Heaven, bless these gifts which we bring to You and bless this church that it may use these gifts to maintain the church, to support its congregation and its leadership, to share Your love throughout this community, and, above all, to glorify You. Amen

*HYMN *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* 211

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE *Peace Be Unto You* Wilshire 441

Jesus, stand among us, words William Pennefather 1873, music Friedrich Filitz 1847 | PUBLIC DOMAIN

Lord, listen to your children, words & music Ken Medema © 1973 Hope Publishing Co.
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In Rev. Keith Bowie's absence (vacation) Rev. John Lacey is supplying emergency Pastoral coverall.

We are happy to welcome our pulpit supply this morning Hunt Gressitt. Hunt trained for ministry through ABCOM, American Baptist Committee on Ministry, and graduated 10 years ago. Hunt is a member of First Congregational Church, Blue Hill and provides pulpit supply for Congregational, UCC, and American Baptist churches.

Special music today is provided by Kathrine Schrader and Alexis Smith. Alexis is an 8th grade student at Deer Isle Stonington Elementary School. She participates in band. Chorus, theatre, basketball, and softball. Her parents are Alyssa Ramsey and Ted Boyce of Deer Isle.

Lynn Hall, *Organist*

Nancy Sargent, *Choral Director*

Michael Hall, *Liturgist*

Rev. John Lacey, *Emergency Pastoral Coverage*

Hunt Gressitt, *Pulpit Supply*

Cindia Sargent and Anne Bancroft, *Ushers*

Lois Stevens, *Greeter*

Troy Tainter, *Facebook, WDEA & Zoom*

Stephen Merchant, *March Deacon*

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, May 5th, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.

MASKING IS OPTIONAL IN THE CHURCH BUILDING. We suggest physical distancing. Please respect the space of those who choose to mask. We will determine on a week-to-week basis if we have coffee hour after worship.



THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 102 MEALS ON MARCH 13TH.

Serving Wednesdays 2:30-4 p.m., take-out only

The WELCOME TABLE, our free community meal, serves take-out only.

Please call the church on Wednesdays **by 2 p.m.**, 667-8321, to reserve a meal. Donations always gratefully received.

THIS WEEK AT FCC: March 17 - 23

Today	11 am.	– Coffee hour downstairs
Monday	10:30 am.	– Busy Bodies
Tuesday	6 pm.	– Choir rehearsal
Wednesday	2:30 pm.	– Welcome Table
Thursday	9 am.	– Bulletin deadline
	7:00 pm	– Trustees meeting
Saturday	5-6:30 pm	– Ham Dinner
Sunday	8:30 am.	– Adult Forum, Parlor & Zoom
	11 am.	– Coffee hour downstairs

Ham Supper

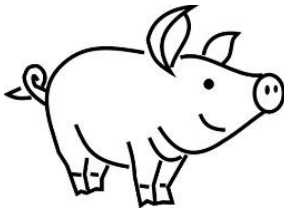
**First Congregational Church
of Ellsworth, UCC
2 Church Street**

***Saturday, March 23, 2024
Serving 5:00 to 6:30 pm***

Baked ham, mashed potatoes,
glazed carrots,
green beans, salad, rolls,
homemade pies,
and beverages (coffee, tea,
lemonade)

**\$10 per person
\$25 per family (2 adults, 2 children)**

Great food Great company ~ Great fun



**Contact Lois 669-2028 to let her
know how you would like to help
please. 32 PIES! Are needed.**

This Week's Birthdays:

03/17 Nancy Sargent
03/18 John Van Pelt
03/21 Jean Tapley

03/17 Alice King
03/21 Marianne Jordan
03/22 Barbara Beal

Please pray for:

Tom Ameen
Shelley Castelot
Patrick Coleman (Hospice care)
Allan Helf (Lois' nephew)
Nita Higgins
Debbie Hodgkin
Irv & Helen Hodgkin
Josh
Kristin & Abby Kimball
Maine health care workers

Isla Silver
Polly Scott
Chip Simpson
Holly Tracy-Potter
Chris Turner
Pamela Ware
Jean & Daryl Whitaker
Facebook congregation
Radio congregation
Zoom congregation

Please notify the office when someone needs to be placed on or removed from the prayer list. The Deacons request you to submit names to the office by Thursday mornings at 9 o'clock for printing in the bulletin.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

REV. BOWIE'S OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK

Rev Bowie is on vacation and will not have office hours this week.

Pastoral needs or emergencies:

Rev John Lacey 537-2532

EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM 2024

Easter is March 31. Take care of your Easter flowers now and order with this form!
Tear off this page and see Katharine Schrader after worship
at coffee hour through Palm Sunday, March 24.

There was a misprint in the Steeple regarding the cost:
Flowers are \$8 per plant this year.

Indicate dedication and flower choice. **Please print.**

In Memory of: _____

OR

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

☐

TULIPS

☐

LILIES

Other options: contact the church office, 667-8321,
or, send a check and this form to:
Katharine Schrader, 149 Oak Street, Ellsworth ME 04605

Our purpose,

First Congregational Church, UCC, Ellsworth, Maine:

To embrace the life, ministry and teachings of Jesus Christ

In meaningful and dynamic ways through

creative worship,

supportive fellowship,

compassionate outreach, and

stimulating Christian education for all ages;

To be a faithful community which, led by the Holy Spirit,

expresses hospitality,

nurtures spiritual growth, and

promotes a deep sense of belonging;

To strive to build on commonalities while seeking to

understand, accept, and

celebrate our differences;

To stand as a beacon of hope in a hurting and troubled world by

sharing the Good News of the Gospel, and

practicing God's love as embodied by Jesus Christ.

We welcome all to walk with us on the journey of faith.

As adopted by the Congregation at its Annual Meeting – January 22, 2012



First Congregational Church UCC - Founded 1812

PO Box 12, 2 Church Street

Ellsworth, Maine 04605

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ellsworthucc.org facebook.com/fccellsworth

