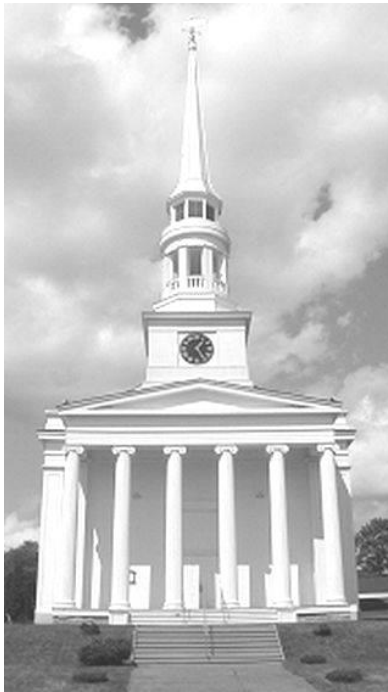


First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Ellsworth, Maine



Founded in 1812

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

ORDER FOR WORSHIP
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 20, 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

How Great Thou Art
Variations on Dix

arr. Carter
arr. Lasky

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT *Come Touch Our Hearts*

Light

Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,
To break the bread and share the cup of peace;
That we may love you with our heart, our soul,
Our mind, our strength, our all, come touch us with your grace.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: This is the day which the Lord has made.

All: We will rejoice and be glad in it.

One: This is the hour of worship we offer to God.

All: With praise and thankfulness, let us worship the Lord together.

*HYMN

Love divine, all loves excelling

517

***GATHERING PRAYER (unison)**

Ever loving God unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, we come to worship you just as we are. We pray for comfort in our struggles, forgiveness in our guilt, renewal and refreshment for our souls, and peace in our lives. Let us feel the healing touch of your Holy Spirit as we worship with joy and thankfulness. Amen

***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 *The Lord is By My Side*

I know my Shepherd gives me peace, the Lord is by my side.

For every day He walks with me, the Lord is by my side.

The Lord is by my side, forever by my side.

His hope, His strength, His peace is mine.

I know my Shepherd gives me strength, the Lord is by my side.

For I am small and He is great, the Lord is by my side. *The Lord is...*

I know my Shepherd gives me hope, the Lord is by my side.

For He will lead me safely home, the Lord is by my side. *The Lord is...*

And when I look back, surely I will see your goodness and love

They have followed me. For when I look back surely I will see

My Shepherd has laid down his life for me. *The Lord is...*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

God of grace, open our hearts to hear your message to us in the reading of the holy scripture. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE *May the Peace of God Be Your Peace* McLaren

POSTLUDE *Grand March* Lasky

Come Touch Our Hearts, words & music Gordon Light © 2002 Common Cup Company | Used with permission

The Lord is By My Side words & music Colin Buchanan, James Ferguson, Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson
© 2023 CityAlight Music | CCLI # 11546442 Streaming # 20543232

Father in heaven, words John Pattinson 1924, music George Frideric Handel | Public Domain

Lynn Hall, *Organist*

Nancy Sargent, *Choir Director*

Myrna Vallette, *Liturgist*

Rev. John A. Lacey, *Guest Minister*

Sue & Peter Bedard, *Ushers*

Lois Stevens, *Greeter*

John A. Lacey, *October Deacon*

Ruth & Troy Tainter, *Facebook, WDEA & Zoom*



MASKING IS OPTIONAL IN THE CHURCH BUILDING.
We suggest physical distancing. Thank you for respecting the space of those who choose to mask.



Imagine Together: What Might Generosity Look Like for You?

By Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson

When I was a first-year student at Union Theological Seminary in New York, I had world renowned theologian Dr. James Cone as my professor for Systematic Theology. In our first class I remember him saying: “We all do theology. Theology is God-talk.” A theology of money is God-talk about money.

Conversations about money are taboo in our society. We reluctantly talk about the cost of items we purchase; we are hushed in our conversations about money; and silent in discussing our investments or what we earn. Money is a topic which creates discomfort for many, with most not knowing how to ask for what is needed or what is owed. If our conversations about money are challenging, then finding our way to God-talk on the subject could be even more challenging.

Such a theology starts with how we understand God present and with us in our lives and in the world around us. The prophet Malachi puts before us a theology of money that says God will bless what is given. The blessing is on the giver and on what is given. The tithe in this case is the expectation of giving. God is present blessing what is given back to God for use in the house of God. Malachi resonates

an expectation one will give back to God regularly and in line with the expectations of the religious order of his day. This is one way to think about money and how we give. There are others.

A theology of money continues with a clear-eyed understanding of how much money we have. If I am giving a portion of what I have, then I should be knowledgeable about what my financial obligations are, including my desire to give in supporting the mission and ministries of the church. Whether investing, spending, or giving we should pay attention to what we have, in order to give from what we have whether a tenth, or another fraction, or amount of our choosing. When we give value and meaning to what we have, we give from abundance rather than from scarcity, from knowledge rather than fear.

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, churches give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.



Imagine Together



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 10

Roast Turkey Supper

Saturday, October 26, 2024

Serving 5:00 to 6:30 pm



*Roast turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, rolls,
glazed carrots, green beans, salad, homemade pies,
and beverages (coffee, tea, lemonade)*

\$10 per person

\$25 per family (2 adults, 2 children)

Great food ~ Great company ~ Great fun

**We need volunteers to set up, cook, serve, wash dishes, and bake pies.
Please contact Ruth Tainter immediately about the ways you can help.**

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
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