



First Congregational Church UCC - Founded 1812
PO Box 12, 2 Church Street
Ellsworth, Maine 04605
207-667-8321 office@ellsworthucc.org
ellsworthucc.org facebook.com/fccellsworth

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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

October 27, 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

*A Mighty Fortress
In Christ There is No East or West*

arr. Pethel
arr. Pethel

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT *Jesus, stand among us*

Filitz

Jesus, stand among us in your risen power.
Let this time of worship be a holy hour.
Breathe the Holy Spirit into every heart.
Bid the fears and sorrows from each soul depart.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Psalm 34:3-8

One: O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

All: Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.

One: This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

All: O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

*HYMN

Be thou my vision

595

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

from Ephesians 3:16-19

O merciful and generous God, may we be strengthened in our inner being with power through your Spirit, may Christ dwell in our hearts through faith, may we be rooted and grounded in love, may we know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, and may we be filled with all your fullness. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME FOR ALL AGES

*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 *Wonderful, Merciful Savior* arr. Schrader

Wonderful, merciful Savior, precious Redeemer and Friend;
Who would have thought that a lamb could rescue the souls of men?
Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace;
You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost the way.
You are the One that we praise, you the One we adore.
You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for.
Almighty, infinite Father, faithfully loving your own;
Here, in our weakness, you find us falling before your throne. *You are...*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

O God, please open your Word to us this day, and open us to your Word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Gospel	Mark 10:17-31	pew Bible p.40 NT
Gospel	Mark 10:46-52	pew Bible p.41 NT

SERMON **Let Me See Again** Rev. Henry

*HYMN *Open my eyes, that I may see* 586

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Bill, Roberta

Unison Prayer

Prayer of St. Francis

468

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.**

**O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY

In His Time

Ball

*DOXOLOGY

46

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN

We cannot own the sunlit sky

684

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

Robinson

POSTLUDE

Our Refuge and Strength

Callender

Jesus, stand among us, words William Pennefather 1873, tune WEM IN LEIDENSTAGEN Friedrich Filitz 1847
Public Domain

Wonderful, Merciful Savior, words & music Dawn Rodgers & Eric Wyse © 1989 Curb Dayspring Music
CCLI # 11546442 Streaming # 20543232; choral setting Jack Schrader

Lynn Hall, *Organist*

Nancy Sargent, *Choir Director*

Mary Morrow, *Liturgist*

Rev. Dr. David P. Henry, *Guest Minister*

Cindy & Charlie, *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.

THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 90 MEALS ON OCTOBER 23.

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

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

Please call the church on Wednesdays **before noon**, 667-8321,
to reserve a meal. Donations always gratefully received.



Imagine Together: A World Made Whole

**The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus
it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and shouting.** (Isaiah 35: 1-2)

Isaiah 35 reflects on the intricate relationship between human activity and the environment, drawing parallels between the biblical narrative and contemporary ecological challenges. The passage emphasizes the profound impact of human actions on the landscape, illustrating how the expansion of deserts and ecological mismanagement contribute to famine and wildfires. Despite technological advancements, the text contends that human greed, indifference, and hopelessness impede necessary environmental healing. The theme of "A World Made Whole" calls for a collective responsibility to address ecological crises, urging a shift from destructive practices to stewardship.

Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull observes, "The apostle Paul pointed out once that 'hope that is seen is not hope' (Rom 8:24). If this is true, it is also true that hope that is left unseen, unimagined, undared, is not hope either...Underlying Isaiah 35's

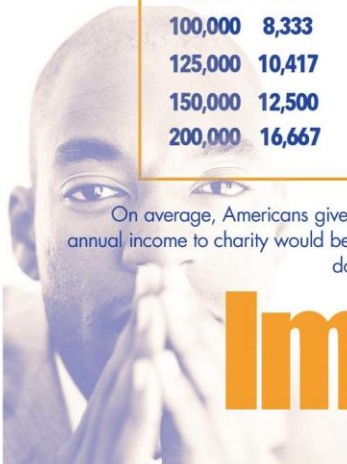
dramatic imagery, hope is being expressed not simply for divine acts, but for those the prophet seeks to inspire from a small band of Judeans who could recultivate the burned land and push back the chaos, and thus strengthen their own weak hands, feeble knees, and fearful hearts.”

How can we Imagine Together A World Made Whole? Can we be physicians of the environment? Caregivers of the land? Our collective stewardship and generosity can be healing. Together we can actively recreate healthy environments in our yards, churches, and towns. It is our collective effort that instills order in chaos and fosters hope in hearts that may be steeped in despair.

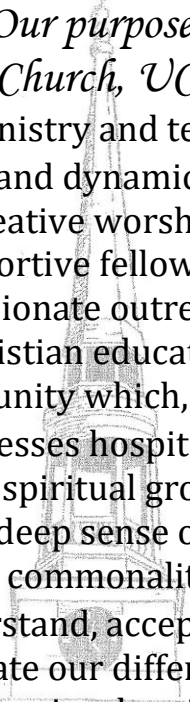
CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

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, Americans 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



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