



First Congregational Church UCC - Founded 1812
PO Box 12, 2 Church Street
Ellsworth, Maine 04605
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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-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY COMMUNION**

November 3, 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

*Brethren, We Have Met to Worship
Hymn of Promise*

arr. Hustad
arr. Carter

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

He Has Made Me Glad

Von Brethorst

I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart;

I will enter his courts with praise. I will say,

“This is the day that the Lord has made!”

I will rejoice for he has made me glad.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Psalm 146

One: Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, my soul.

All: I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

One: Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save.

All: Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

One: He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—

All: He remains faithful forever!

One: The Lord reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

All: Praise the Lord!

*HYMN

For All the Saints

637

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

Oh Lord, our God, it is with joyful hearts that we gather here together today. We come into Your house with thanksgiving and praise! We do not take our freedom to do so for granted and we ask You, Holy Spirit to sustain those who do not have such freedom. Strengthen and comfort our persecuted brothers and sisters, we pray. Open our ears to hear Your word. Open our minds to understand it and our hearts to apply it to our lives, that those watching will be ministered to and drawn unto Your son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. It is in His name we pray, Amen.

*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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Help us Holy Spirit, to obey the scriptures which say to not only be hearers of the word, but doers of it. Help us understand it, that we might apply it, and you might be glorified! Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle	Hebrews 9:11-14	pew Bible p.197 NT
Gospel	Mark 12:28-34	pew Bible p.42 NT

SERMON

Loving God

Rev. McDonald

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Victoria, Nicole

Unison Prayer

Oh Lord, we render our hearts to You. May we be captivated by Your love for us and compelled to acts of kindness because of Your love for the world.

We entrust our souls to You, our good shepherd. When the enemy roars, may we be bold to declare the truth: that Jesus, our advocate, has redeemed us! By this truth, may we be set free from the bonds of guilt, fear and shame.

Let our minds be fixed upon You. As the sea billows roll and toss us to and fro, let us hold fast to inward peace that passes all understanding. In the moments of our weakness, let us rejoice in Your strength. For in our weakness, Your strength is made perfect. Amen.

Choral Response

Amen

Stainer

HOLY COMMUNION

*Hymn *Let us break bread together* 425

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Sharing the Bread & the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Eternal God, we thank you for your presence in this holy feast. May we know the presence of Jesus among us. Take us from this table, raised and restored, ready not to be served but to serve, in the power of the Spirit. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY *King of Glory* arr. Pulkingham

*DOXOLOGY 46

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN *A mighty fortress is our God* 65

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE *Benediction* Barraclough

POSTLUDE *For All the Saints* Williams

He Has Made Me Glad, Leona Von Brethorst ©1976 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing
CCLI # 11546442 Streaming # 20543232

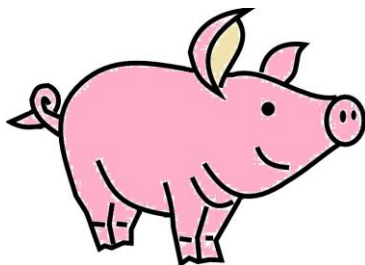
Lynn Hall, *Organist & Flautist*
Nancy Sargent, *Choir Director*
Myrna Vallette, *Liturgist*
Rev. Cassandra McDonald, *Guest Minister*
Cindy Sargent & John Lacey, *Communion Stewards*
Susan & Peter Bedard, *Ushers*
Lois Stevens, *Greeter*
Steve Merchant, *November Deacon*
Ruth & Troy Tainter, *Facebook, 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.

Ham Supper

Saturday, November 16, 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

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



Imagine Together: A Rested Church/Community

By Rev. Dr. Courtney Buggs

“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11: 28-30

Scant scholarship exists that addresses these verses. Still, the literary context of the passage supports exploration of traditional religion contrasted with the experience of Jesus’ Way. While the former way is depicted as stringent and laborious; the latter is referred to as easy and light.

The invitation is to those who 1) have grown weary from labor (or trouble); and 2) those who are bringing or carrying burdens. Figuratively, Jesus calls those who are fainting under the legal burdens of religion, those who feel burdened with their efforts to keep the laws of religion. The weariness may also be caused by sin or guilt for inability to adhere to the full Law. Moreover, the uncertainties of life might contribute to an arduous life experience.

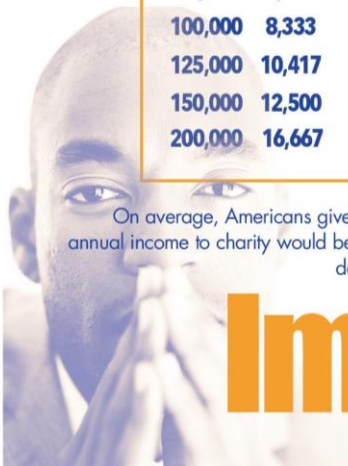
Come to me and rest, that is, be refreshed, experience refreshment, be relieved. It is an invitation to cessation, interruption of that which causes unrest. This alone – come to me and rest – may cause readers to exhale! God’s Way brings relief from uncertainty and anxiety and sin and guilt. The invitation is not to idleness, but rather to companionship with God that leads to contentment, both in this present life, and life eternal. To suggest that this rest is limited to the eschaton is to deprive believers of Emmanuel, in this life. The rest of which Jesus speaks brings renewal and restoration.

Imagine Together how our congregation can promote the rest Jesus speaks about. What burdens can we ease? What can we make lighter?

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

THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 90 MEALS ON OCTOBER 30.

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.

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