



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
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

March 9, 2025

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

Forty Days & Forty Nights
Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

arr. Page
arr. Page

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)**

One: We gather this day to worship our God, whose words and ways challenge us.

All: God invites us to lose our selfishness in order to find ourselves.

One: God calls us to be fools in the world to show forth the wisdom of Christ.

All: God urges us to empty ourselves to discover life's fullness.

One: God bids us to be obedient to a divine will so we might know true freedom.

All: We come to worship our Creator, seeking to have our faith challenged into growth. We root our faith in worship, seeking to find nourishment for our spirits in this growing season of Lent.

***HYMN**

Come, thou fount of every blessing

16

***GATHERING PRAYER (unison)**

We come before you, O God, in the shadow of the cross, grateful for your great love for us. As you came to us in Jesus to win our love and obedience, reveal yourself among us still. Give us courage to follow Jesus over rocky hills where we carry our crosses and green valleys where you restore our souls. For we pray in the name of the shepherd whose life was laid down for the sheep. 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

Jesus, Touch My Heart

Rush & Pethel

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (all)

Bring your word near to us, O God. May it rest not only on our lips, but also reside in our hearts. By the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to respond to your word with our whole lives until you become our dwelling place; through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	pew Bible p.168 OT
Gospel	Luke 4:1-13	pew Bible p.53 NT

SERMON **Tempted Like Us** Rev. Bowie

*HYMN *Precious Lord, take my hand* 628

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays:

Steve, Meghan, Jerri, Sue, Jim, Gale David

Choral Response *Lord, listen to your children* 305

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord send your spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY *New Dimensions* Rush

*DOXOLOGY 46

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Gracious and Generous God, we are amazed by the good gifts you bestow in abundance. Thank you for food that sustains us on our journey. Thank you for the company of saints to whom we are joined. Thank you for giving us your work to do on earth. We offer back to you a portion of all that we have received, setting down our baskets in celebration of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN *Leaning On the Everlasting Arms* 560

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE *Go in peace* White

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day.
Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.
Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate new life!
Go peace and the peace of God be with you always.

POSTLUDE *Justice & Mercy* Scott

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

Lord, listen to your children, words & music Ken Medema © 1973 Hope Publishing Co.
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Go in Peace, words Barber L. Waters, tune OCEAN PARK Kenneth E. White
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**Worship is broadcast live through
WDEA AM 1370, Facebook, and Zoom.**

Lynn Hall, *Organist & Flautist*
Nancy Sargent, *Choir Director*
Martin Vachon, *Liturgist*
Rev. Keith Bowie, *Transitional Minister*
Ginny Davis & Cathy Engel, *Ushers*
Anne Bancroft, *Greeter*
Steve Merchant, *March Deacon*

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 115 MEALS ON MARCH 5.

Serving Wednesdays 2 – 3:30 p.m., take-out only

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

Please call the church on Wednesdays **before 11 a.m.**, 667-8321,
to reserve a meal. Donations always gratefully received.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

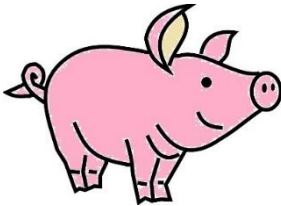
During March, we will accept gifts to OGHS. When you give to this mission offering, you are light for people in need. You offer light when disasters strike, and when chronic conditions threaten families and communities. You are light not just in the immediate future, but also for the long haul. When you give, you restore not only structures but also transform lives. Your gift ensures that, no matter how difficult the situation, light shines. ***Be the light.***

*You're here to be the light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—**shine!** (Matthew 5:14-15)*

Roast Pork Supper

Saturday, March 22, 2025

5:00 to 6:30 pm



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

\$12 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