



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
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

March 30, 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

Surely He Died on Calvary
What Wondrous Love is This

arr. Page
arr. Page

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

Lead me, Lord

Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness,
Make thy way plain before my face.

For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: As a shepherd seeks a lost sheep,

All: So God seeks and saves the lost.

One: Like a woman who searches for a lost coin until it is found,

All: So God rejoices over one soul restored to wholeness.

One: As a father receives a returning wayward son,

All: So God welcomes us, and lets the past be the past.

One: Therefore, let us praise God in thanksgiving that we are received.

All: Let us receive and welcome and rejoice over one another in the name of Jesus Christ.

*HYMN

When morning gilds the skies

100

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

In a world that wants power like a machine gun, power like a bomber plane, power like a gated fence to keep the hungry out, I want power like a seed—power that will crack me open and grow something good; power like an open door, an invitation that says, “Come on in”, power that feels like a strong spine with a soft heart. I want the power to listen, to lean in, to ask follow-up questions. But more than anything, I want the power to bring us together, to lift us up. There are different kinds of power. One will build a wall. One will plant a garden. We should know by now, only one will bear fruit. 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 *Create in me a clean heart* Mueller

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;
and uphold me with thy free spirit.
Then will I teach transgressors thy ways;
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (all)

Shepherding God, You look for us. You search for us. You turn every corner and climb every mountain. You call our name until your voice is hoarse. When we lose our way, you never stop seeking after us. So once again we pray, find us in this moment. Look for us. And then surround us with your presence, so that we might feel you near. With hope we pray, with hope we listen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle	2 Corinthians 5:14-21	pew Bible p.159 NT
Psalm	Psalm 32	pew Bible p.469 OT
Gospel	Luke 15:1-2, 11-32	pew Bible p.67 NT

SERMON **Beyond Imagination** Rev. Henry

*HYMN *O sacred head, now wounded* 202

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Robert, Robert, Bill, Evan, Gayle & Chris

Choral Response *Lord, have mercy upon us*

Willan

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* arr. Parson

*DOXOLOGY 46

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN *We've a story to tell to the nations* 484

BENEDICTION

As you leave this place, may you find God in every messy middle. May you know that the world is bigger than two sides. May you trust that you are made in the image of God, and therefore, you contain multitudes. So may you move through this world with an open heart, with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone. God is with you in the mountains, in the valleys, and everywhere in between. Believe that good news, and go in peace. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE *Depart in peace* Gläser

Depart in peace to do God's will, walk ever in the light,
For Christ is with you ever more, to guide you day and night.

POSTLUDE *Celebration for Trumpet* Thygerson

Liturgical resources: Gathering Prayer (adapted), Prayer of Illumination, and Benediction
by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Lead me, Lord, text from Psalms 5:8 & 4:8, music Samuel S. Wesley, 1861 | Public Domain

Create in me a clean heart, text Psalm 51:10-13 | Public Domain
music Carl F. Mueller © 1941 G. Schirmer, Inc. | CCLI License # 11546442 Streaming 20543232

Lord have mercy, trans. of *Kyrie eleison* | Public Domain

Depart in peace, text Unknown, tune AZMON Carl Gläser 1828, arr. Lowell Mason 1839 | Public Domain

Lynn Hall, *Organist*

Nancy Sargent, *Choir Director*

Rev. John A. Lacey, *Liturgist*

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

Cathy Engel & Ginny Davis, *Ushers*

Lois Stevens, *Greeter*

Steve Merchant, *March Deacon*

**Worship is broadcast live through
WDEA AM 1370, Facebook, and 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 110 MEALS ON MARCH 26.

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.



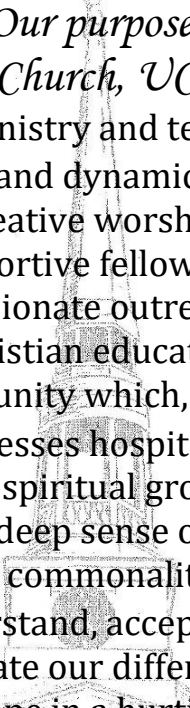
SHINING THE LIGHT ON FOOD SECURITY.

Orlefina works with families in the northern regions of Honduras to help them understand how to transform their families and communities through agriculture. The list of things she does is mindboggling: checking on local farmers' harvests, monitoring water projects, teaching the women in the community how to prepare more nutritious meals, chatting up community leaders for support, running workshops for things like creating organic fertilizers and sprays.

But Olefina doesn't just *work* with farmers and their families, she supports and encourages them. Visiting them in their homes. Bringing God's light to everyone she meets. And all of this is made possible through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing. Because of your giving, projects like these and thousands more around the world are changing lives. Transforming communities. And spreading God's light. Be the Light. **Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.**

**One Great
HOUR**
OF SHARING

 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



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