

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  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**May 11, 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

*Little Prelude in g minor  
The Gift of Love*

Taylor  
arr. Hopson

WELCOME

ORGAN INTROIT *The sun is on the sea and shore*

Bain

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

from Revelation 5 & 7

One: Jesus Christ, the Passover Lamb who was slain, lives.

**All: Worthy is the Lamb to receive power and wisdom and glory and blessing!**

One: Myriads of the faithful, freed and called to be a nation of priests of God, sing praise:

**All: Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God, for ever and ever. Amen!**

\*HYMN

*Crown him with many crowns*

234

**\*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)**

**Resurrected Savior, we come to you in humble prayer and joyous song, for Easter has changed our lives. We are no longer frightened people—because you live, we have courage to face life and to face death. We are no longer lonely people—because you live, we can accept ourselves and reach out to each other. We are no longer scattered people—because you live, we may come together to worship and to witness in our weakness and our strength to the presence of your reign among us and the promise of your reign to come. 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.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*It is Well with My Soul*

arr. Walz

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (all)**

**Shepherd of Souls, you call us to an abundant feast at the table of your word; open our hearts to feed on your goodness, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we might dwell evermore deeply in you. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

New Testament

Acts 9:36-43

pew Bible p.112 NT

New Testament

Revelation 7:9-17

pew Bible p.221 NT

Gospel

John 10:22-30

pew Bible p.90 NT

Rev. Bowie

*Savior, like a shepherd lead us*

## West

## Berthier

*Go, my children, with my blessing*

trad.

Blake

Lynn Hall, *Organist*  
Cathy Engel, *Liturgist*  
Rev. Keith Bowie, *Transitional Minister*  
Ginny Davis & Cindy Sargent, *Ushers*  
Lois Stevens, *Greeter*  
Anne Bancroft, *May Deacon*

---

## **VISITORS, GUESTS, AND SEEKERS ARE WELCOME**

Come with hope or despair, expectation or disappointment, and seek the Lord even as the Lord seeks you. We pray that your experience of worship enriches and sustains you in the week ahead. If you are visiting, we hope you will introduce yourself to those around you and to the Pastor. Please join us for coffee after the service. If you have any questions, please ask an usher.

---

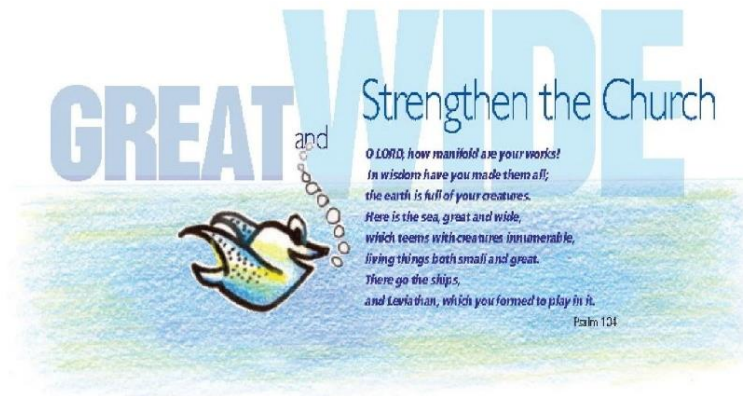


## **MASKING IS OPTIONAL IN THE CHURCH BUILDING.**

Thank you for respecting the space of those who choose to mask.

---

**Worship is broadcast live through  
WDEA AM 1370, Facebook, and Zoom.**



## Flicker Wild Church

How does the UCC support emerging ministries? The Strengthen the Church Offering is a source of funding for Congregational Assessment, Support, and Advancement Grants. One of these grants helped support the new ministry of Flicker Wild Church.

The Rev. Daniel Cooperrider has always had a passion for connecting spirituality and nature. After watching churches during the pandemic years experiment with how to worship outside the context of the church building, he recognized that others shared a hunger for outdoor, nature-based spiritual community. Alongside his spouse, the Rev. Dr. Julia Burkey, Cooperrider responded to the Spirit's call and decided to invite others to join in this yearning. On the Fall equinox in 2023, Flicker Wild Church gathered for the first time.

This community, found in various outdoor landscapes outside of Madison, Wisconsin, embraces the expansiveness of God's presence in creation, and the movement of Spirit in the movement of the seasons. Scripture, poetry, movement, meditation, and song ground their worship practices, with a "wild wander" in place of the sermon. Flicker Wild Church's invitation to worship not just in nature, but with nature and to be in spiritual relationship with the more-than-human world has offered hospitality to those who might be unlikely to step into a traditional church building.

Your support of the Strengthen the Church offering equips leaders, funds new churches, and fosters innovation. The offering is a celebration of who we are as church together, as money is shared between the National ministries of the United Church of Christ as well as with Conference settings.

Learn more about the offering at [www.ucc.org/stc](http://www.ucc.org/stc).

### Wild Church Credo

I believe in the Land, and in the Sky, and in the Call of Wild Geese;

I believe that matter matters—that what is, is not opposed to God, but of God;

I believe that Jesus meant it, saying “consider the birds of the air, consider the lilies of the fields,” Consider, from the Latin *con-sidereal*, to think with the stars...

I believe that the kin-dom of God is among us and within us.

I believe that life is not just life and death, but that life is life and death and new life.

I believe that everything is everything else, that all flourishing is mutual, and that sacred presence flickers in the momentary encounters of life with life.

I believe the human and the more-than-human are co-evolved to participate in the creative impulses of earth’s astonishingly generative cosmic perch.

I believe that prayer has roots, that sacred stories have fur and feathers, that landscape is liturgy and soundscape is praise, that religion is an ecosystem.

I believe in the Communion of the Clouds, the Forgiveness of the Fungi, the Resurrection of the Leaves, and the Earth Everlasting.

*Written by Daniel Cooperrider, Convening Pastor  
Flicker Wild Church*



**THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 115 MEALS ON MAY 7.**

**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.

---

## **Roast Turkey Supper**

**Saturday, May 24, 2025**

**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)*

**\$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 Lois Stevens 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**

PO Box 12, 2 Church Street

Ellsworth, Maine 04605

207-667-8321 office@ellsworthucc.org

ellsworthucc.org facebook.com/fccellsworth