

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
OF ELLSWORTH, MAINE  
FOUNDED 1812**



**June 2025 THE STEEPLE NEWSLETTER**

First Congregational Church, PO Box 12, 2 Church Street, Ellsworth, Maine 04605 207-667-8321 ellsworthucc.org

From Rev. Keith Bowie, Transitional Minister

One of the more interesting responses that came back from the worship survey that was conducted back in March was this gem: *"It would be a good thing to be more visible in the community, somehow. I really believe that FCC is the best-kept secret in Ellsworth. Many people just don't know what lies behind the church doors, the exception being church suppers."*

Now I honestly don't know who penned this revelation since it was an "anonymous" response, but the anonymity of the author is of no concern to me. What grabbed my attention is that the thrust of the insight is both laudatory as well as a challenge. "Best-kept secret" refers to something very good or valuable that is not widely known. It implies that the secret is not widely shared. It suggests that there is a limited circle of people who know about it.

God has brought together at First Congregational Church (FCC) some very amazing, talented, compassionate, and faithful people who time after time have done good work and have responded to the needs of others. God knows the difference you have made in the lives of others. My deep appreciation and thanks go out to those who are contributing to the upbuilding of this church. The challenge, of course, as reflected in the above comment, is that this good word and work is not getting out into the community. The old adage that "bad news travels twice as fast as good news" applies here.

Jesus has an applicable word for us, in his Sermon on the Mount: "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5: 14-16).

Yes, God knows the difference we make in the lives of others, but do others in the community know? Are we letting our light "shine before others"? Wouldn't it make a difference in the life of our church and in the community if we did? Let's work on this...together!



That in all things God may be glorified,

*Keith*

## JUNE CHURCH MEETINGS

- Adult Forum** – Sundays, 8:15 a.m.  
**Busy Bodies** – Mondays, 10:30 a.m.  
**Music** – TBA  
**Search Comm** – TBA  
**Deacons** – Sunday, June 8, 11:30 a.m.  
**Christian Ed** – Sunday, June 8, 11:30 a.m.  
**Trustees** – Thursday, June 19, 7 p.m.  
**Missions** – Sunday, June 22, 11:30 a.m.  
**Council** – Monday, June 30, 6:30 p.m.

Our meetings are hybrid, in person AND Zoom, so that you may participate in the way you are comfortable. All FCC Zoom events (meetings and worship) use the same meeting number and password. Please contact the secretary in the church office (T-W-Th) for Zoom instructions.

**Please notify the church office immediately of high school or college graduates in our congregation, that we may recognize them in worship on Sunday, June 8, 2024.**



(As of publication date, these are the names that have been submitted to the office. This list may include more names on June 8.)

Katy Schrader Blackmer  
Master of Arts in Global Policies  
University of Maine

Olivia Robidoux  
Nursing  
Eastern Maine Community College

Sebastian K. Seifert  
Walnut Grove High School  
Prosper, Texas  
(Grandson of Keith & Pam Bowie)

## JUNE LECTIONARY READINGS

### JUNE 1 – 7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 16:16-34  
Psalm 97  
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 2-21  
John 17:20-26

### JUNE 8 - PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-21 OR Genesis 11:1-9  
Psalm 104:23-24, 35b  
Romans 8:14-17 OR Acts 2:1-21  
John 14:8-17 (25-27)



### JUNE 15 – 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31  
Psalm 8  
Romans 5:1-5  
John 16:12-15

### JUNE 22 – 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a & Psalm 42 & 43  
OR Isaiah 65:1-9 & Psalm 22:19-28  
Galatians 3:23-29  
Luke 8:26-39

### JUNE 29 – 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 & Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20  
OR 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 & Psalm 16  
Galatians 5:1, 13-25  
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

## Memorial Services

**for Vinal Tainter**  
**Saturday, June 7, 2025**  
**at 1 p.m.**

**for John Van Pelt**  
**Friday, June 27, 2025**  
**at 11 a.m.**

# DEACONS

June 1 - Communion, Rev. Keith Bowie  
June 8 - **Pentecost**, Rev. Keith Bowie  
June 15 - Andy Elliot  
June 22 - Rev. Keith Bowie  
June 29 - Rev. Keith Bowie

June Deacon: Rev. John A. Lacey

The Deacons are planning School Bash Palooza on Saturday, August 16, on the front lawn from noon to 4 p.m. The church will donate school supplies to families in need. If you have questions about this event, please speak with Katharine Schrader.

## Prayer Calendar names

As we attempt to pray for our entire church family over the course of a year, the Deacons ask that you please include these names in your daily prayers during June:

Anne Bancroft  
Victor Eastman  
Rev. John Lacey  
Albert Scott  
Ernie Tracy  
Christopher Turner  
Jeff Jones  
Nancy & George Scott  
Mary Morrow  
Nancy Sargent

## PENTECOST PRAYER

*Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.***



A sojourn at Pilgrim Lodge offers a break for time or renewal in nature. It provides the soil for spiritual growth. You can slow down, relax, and reflect.

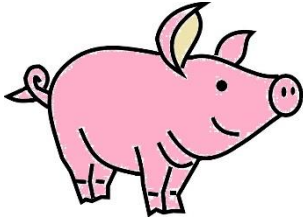
We hope you will join us for a camp session in 2025. If you want to help others attend, you can assist with donations to camperships.

**[pilgrimlodge.org](http://pilgrimlodge.org)**

# Roast Pork Supper

**Saturday, June 28, 2025**

**Serving 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 Lois Stevens immediately about the ways you can help.**

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## Hyssongs<sup>®</sup> *in concert*

**HYSSONGS in concert at FCC  
Saturday, June 21 at 6 p.m**




Dell, Susan and Richard Hyssong travel full-time as the award-winning Hyssongs. Their energetic ministry combines family vocal harmony, humor and brass instruments (trumpet and trombone) to delight audiences with their Christ-centered message, shared through the powerful medium of music.

The family's classical music background, along with their harmony and specific chord structures, lend them a unique sound that has made quite an impact on audiences. The group has been singing together as a family for more than 28 years.

Cost: a good will offering will be taken.



# June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>White</b> 8:15 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service	2 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 10:30 am Busy Bodies activities	3  6 pm Boy Scouts	4 1-4 pm Bowie office 2-3:30 pm Welcome Table take-out	5 9 am Bulletin deadline 4 pm Chess Club 6 pm Choir	6 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 10 am Finance	7  1 pm Vinal Tainter service
8 <b>PENTECOST</b> <b>Red</b> 8:15 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 11:30 am Deacons 11:30 am Christian Ed	9 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 10:30 am Busy Bodies activities	10  6 pm Boy Scouts	11 1-4 pm Bowie office 2-3:30 pm Welcome Table take-out	12 9 am Bulletin deadline 4 pm Chess Club	13 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	14
15 <b>White</b> 8:15 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service	16 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 10:30 am Busy Bodies activities	17  6 pm Boy Scouts	18 1-4 pm Bowie office 2-3:30 pm Welcome Table take-out	19 9 am Bulletin Deadline 7 pm Trustees	20 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	21  6 pm Concert
22 <b>Green</b> 8:15 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 11:30 am Missions	23 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 10:30 am Busy Bodies activities	24 9 am Steeple deadline 6 pm Boy Scouts	25 1-4 pm Bowie office 2-3:30 pm Welcome Table take-out	26 9 am Bulletin Deadline	27 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 11 am Van Pelt service	28  5 pm Roast pork supper
29 <b>Green</b> 8:15 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service	30 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 10:30 am Busy Bodies activities 6:30 pm Council					



## We will observe Strengthen The Church on Pentecost Sunday, June 8.

This year's theme—**Great and Wide**—honors the diversity of God's creation and how we reflect that in the church. The **Strengthen the Church** Offering supports new and renewing churches, youth and young adults, and leadership development across the UCC. These expressions of church don't all look the same and that's a cause for celebration. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

## **Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m.**

**Church office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Rev. Keith Bowie, Transitional Minister  
Joyce B. Cornwell, Secretary  
Lynn Hall, Organist  
Nancy Sargent, Choir Director  
Sue Fuller, Moderator 610-1626  
Tom MacDonald, Vice Moderator  
Myrna Vallette, Clerk  
Ken Farkas, Treasurer  
Mike Fuller, Asst Treasurer  
Jennifer Ashmore, Bookkeeper

Sidney Emerson & Lynn Hall,  
Financial Secretaries  
Troy Tainter, Building Maintenance Director  
Katharine Schrader, Deacons 266-2541  
Ginny Davis, Missions  
Bonnie Carter, Music & Christian Education  
Council Members at Large:  
Susan Bedard  
Rhyne Robidoux



**First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**

PO Box 12, Ellsworth, Maine 04605

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[facebook.com/fccellsworth/](https://facebook.com/fccellsworth/)

Our street address is 2 Church Street, but that is not our mailing address. The Post Office no longer automatically gives us our mail with the street address. You must use the Post Office Box number.