

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.*

*Hearing devices and large print hymnals are available—
please ask an usher if you require them.
Please stand as you are able.

Thank you for silencing electronic devices before worship begins.

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY COMMUNION**

September 7, 2025

10 a.m.

RINGING THE BELL

9:45 a.m.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

*Fanfare in c minor
My Jesus, I Love Thee*

Helman
arr. Page

WELCOME

INTROIT

How Majestic is Your Name

Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: Come to Christ, the living bread, who satisfies those who hunger and thirst for what is right.

All: Come to Christ, who gives living water, that you may never thirst again.

One: Come to Christ, that being filled yourselves, you may minister to the hunger and thirst of others.

All: Come to God in worship and praise through Jesus Christ, who gives us life.

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

God of this new day, we greet you with joy. We thank you for your Spirit which has called us to faith and gathered us together as your family. Enable us to sense your presence and to hear your voice in this time of worship, that your love and truth might recreate us yet again, and fit us for useful and loving service in this world. In gratitude and trust 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Somebody Bigger Than You and I*

Lange

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

God of wisdom, by your Spirit speak this day a word of life, and plant in us the power of your righteous love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

pew Bible p.173 OT

Psalms 1

pew Bible p.452 OT

Gospel

Luke 14:25-33

pew Bible p.67 NT

COMMUNION MEDITATION

Rev. Bowie

On Coming to the Table Gratefully and Obediently

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Response

Amen

Wiltse

HOLY COMMUNION

*Hymn *Let us break bread together*

425

The Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution & Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

O God, we give you thanks for this meal that nourishes us in body and spirit. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for each other, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY

Healing Spirit

Hopson

*DOXOLOGY

46

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

We give you thanks this day for the goodness and love that you have shown to us in Christ and pray your blessing upon these gifts. May they build your love in the world, to the honor of your name. Amen.

*HYMN	<i>God, whose giving knows no ending</i>	606
BENEDICTION	<i>Shalom Chaverim</i>	Israeli melody
RESPONSE	<i>Amen</i>	Carter
POSTLUDE	<i>Enter His Courts with Praise</i>	Mason

Lynn Hall, *Organist*
 Myrna Vallette, *Liturgist*
 Katharine Schrader, *Soloist*
 Rev. Keith Bowie, *Transitional Minister*
 Anne Bancroft & Ginny Davis, *Ushers*
 Lois Stevens, *Greeter*
 Ruth & Troy Tainter, *Facebook, WDEA & Zoom*
 Anne Bancroft, *September Deacon*

VISITORS, GUESTS, AND SEEKERS ARE WELCOME

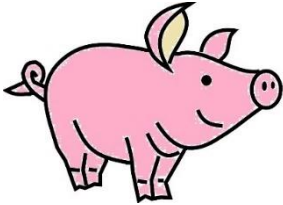
Come with hope or despair, expectation or disappointment, and seek God even as God seeks you. We pray that your experience of worship enriches and sustains you in the week ahead. If you are visiting, we hope you will introduce yourself to those around you and to the Pastor. Please join us for coffee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

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

Roast Pork Supper

Saturday, September 27, 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 Lois Stevens immediately about the ways you can help.**

THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 90 MEALS ON SEPTEMBER 3.

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.

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