



**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.*

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*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.***

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**ORDER OF WORSHIP  
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**September 14, 2025**

**10 a.m.**

RINGING THE BELL

9:45 a.m.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

*Be Still My Soul  
Near to the Heart of God*

arr. Rodriguez  
arr. Larson

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT     *How Majestic is Your Name*

Smith

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

O Lord, we praise your name. O Lord, we magnify your name:

Prince of Peace, Mighty God; O Lord God Almighty.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: Friends, let us remember the shepherd who left the ninety-nine to find the one. Let us remember the God who is always seeking us out.

**All: We are here today as the found and the embraced. We come with our brokenness, our failures, and our longing for wholeness.**

One: Let us remember the parable of the lost son, whose father ran to meet him on the road.

**All: We come with our weary steps and our hesitant hearts, knowing that we are met with grace, not judgment. You have welcomed us in.**

One: Let us give thanks for this moment, for this community, and for the promise of new life. For God's mercy is new every morning.

**All: In this sacred time, we open our hearts to receive your goodness and to share it with the world. We are grateful for your unwavering love. Let us rejoice in the God who welcomes all, whose love is vast, and whose joy is found in the return of every lost soul. Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN

*Hope of the world*

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\*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

**Loving God, we gather today as the ones you have relentlessly sought. We are the lost sheep you left everything to find, the prodigal children you ran to meet on the road, and the ones whose prayers you have heard. We come with our whole, imperfect hearts, knowing that you meet us not with judgment, but with grace. In this sacred time, open us to your presence, heal our brokenness, and make us ready to receive your boundless love and share it with the world. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME FOR ALL AGES      **HOPE – What is HOPE?**

**\*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.**

**ANTHEM**

*The Gift of Love*

Hopson

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,  
And have not love, my words are vain,  
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.  
Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,  
But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.  
Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed; By this we worship, and are freed.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)**

**God of light and wisdom, as we open the sacred texts, quiet our minds and open our hearts. Grant us the clarity to hear your Word not just with our ears, but with our souls.**

**We pray that you open our minds to understand these ancient words, our hearts to feel their truth, and our spirits to receive their deepest message. May they not be mere words on a page, but a living Word that speaks directly to our lives today, guiding us through our questions and comforting us in our struggles.**

**Shine your light on the path you have set before us, revealing the next faithful step. Help us to see ourselves and our community within these stories, and to find the courage to live out your call in the world. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament

Exodus 37:7-14

pew Bible p.78 OT

Psalm 51:1-10

pew Bible p.483 OT

Gospel

Luke 15:1-10

pew Bible p.67 NT

SERMON

**The Audacity of Hope**

Andy Elliott

\*HYMN

*My hope is built*

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## MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Louise, Ben, Andy

Response

*Amen*

Danish

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY

*All Things Bright & Beautiful*

arr. Rodriguez

\*DOXOLOGY

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\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN

*Jesus, the very thought of thee*

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## BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

*Be not dismayed*

Carter

Be not dismayed whatever betide, God will take care of you.

Beneath God's wings of love abide, God will take care of you.

God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way.

God will take care of you, God will take care of you.

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*How majestic is your name*, words & music Michael W. Smith © 1981 Meadowgreen Music Co  
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*The Gift of Love*, words & music Hal H. Hopson  
words © 1972 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 2018 Hope Publishing Co.  
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*Be not dismayed*, words Civilla Martin 1904, tune MARTIN W. Stillman Martin 1905 | Public Domain

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Nancy Sargent, *Pianist & Choral Director*

Rev. John A. Lacey, *Liturgist*

Andy Elliott, *Guest Minister & Ministerial Candidate*

Cindy & Charlie Sargent, *Ushers*

Lois Stevens, *Greeter*

Ruth & Troy Tainter, *Facebook, WDEA & Zoom*

Anne Bancroft, *September Deacon*

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

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## **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.

**THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 90 MEALS ON SEPTEMBER 10.**

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

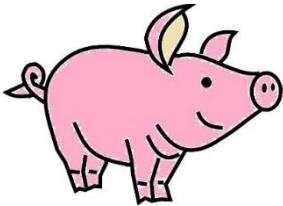
WELCOME TABLE, our free community meal, serves take-out only.

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

# Roast 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.**

*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*



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