

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



October 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

As my time as your Transitional Minister comes to a close, I want to say that it has been a privilege and joy to serve you and to experience the dedication, commitment, and affection of all of you as we worked together to lift up God's name in prayer and worship. I had not planned to stay so long. But I am glad that I was able to stay the course and finish the calling, with God's help and strength, that began about three and a half years ago as you formed a Search Committee to begin looking for a new settled minister. Yes, the journey has been long, the pace sometimes maddening slow, but I believe that you are now poised to boldly move forward under new leadership. On October 1st, Andy Elliott will begin ministry among you, an exciting moment in the history of the First Congregational Church. All indications are that the future of this congregation is in good hands. I believe that Andy is the right person for this church, and I will be cheering you and him on from afar. I know that you will support him, his wife Amber, and his daughters and join in giving them a warm welcome.

My last Sunday with you will be September 28th, and I hope it will give us a wonderful opportunity to say farewell, and to celebrate all of the good work that WE have done together during this interim time. It has been an honor to serve you during this time of transition. Your generosity of spirit, friendliness, and enthusiasm for serving God and the Lord Jesus Christ in many and various ways has been a gift to me personally. You have opened your hearts and lives to me, and I have been blessed. Will I miss you? Of course. That goes without saying. But I will say it anyway. We have been through interesting times together and I will take with me many lovely memories. I have been comforted, challenged, loved and appreciated. I hope that you have been as well. I thank you for your acceptance, good humor and tolerance, when that was called for.

As I have preached previously in a sermon or two, every ending is always at the same time a new beginning. This is at the heart of resurrection faith. I hope that the ending of my ministry with you and the beginning of this new phase in your journey will be blessed with grace and peace. Thank you again for the opportunities in ministry these last few years to serve the Church of Jesus Christ, and best wishes to you all.

That in all things God may be glorified,

Keith

OCTOBER CHURCH MEETINGS

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Adult Forum | - Sundays, 8:15 a.m. |
| Busy Bodies | - Mondays, 10:30 a.m. |
| Choir | - Thursdays, 6 p.m. |
| Music | - TBA |
| Deacons | - Sunday, Oct 12, 11:30 a.m. |
| Christian Ed | - Sunday, Oct 12, 11:30 a.m. |
| Trustees | - Thursday, Oct 16, 7 p.m. |
| Missions | - Sunday, Oct 26, 11:30 a.m. |
| Council | - Monday, Oct 27, 6:30 p.m. |

Our meetings are hybrid, in person AND Zoom. All FCC Zoom events (meetings and worship) use the same meeting number and password. Contact the secretary in the church office (T-W-Th) for Zoom instructions.

OCTOBER LECTIONARY READINGS

OCT 5 – 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Lamentations 1:1-6, 3:19-26 & Psalm 137 OR
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 & Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

OCT 12 – 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 & Psalm 66:1-12 OR
2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c & Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:1-19

OCT 19 – 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jeremiah 31:27-34 & Psalm 119:97-194 OR
Genesis 32:22-31 & Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8

OCT 26 – 20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Joel 2:23-32 & Psalm 65 OR
Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 & Psalm 84:1-7
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

From our Pastor



GREETINGS, CHURCH FAMILY!

I am so excited to begin this new season of ministry with you on October 1st! The love and support my family have already received from you has been overwhelming in the best way, and we are truly grateful. I look forward to sharing more time together, especially around tables, breaking bread, and building deeper relationships.

In the first few weeks of October, I'll be passing around a clipboard with some dates, times, and locations where we can gather. I'd love the chance to connect with each of you more personally I hope you'll sign up so we can share conversation and get to know one another better.

Looking ahead, here are a few important dates to keep in mind:

- **October 4** – Sunrise Association Fall Annual Meeting at *The First Congregational Church of Cherryfield* (9 a.m.– noon). This was noted in the bulletin, and I'd love you to join me if you're able.
- **October 6 & 9** – In office (5 – 9 p.m.)
- **October 15 & 16** – In office (5 – 9 p.m.)
- **October 20 & 23** – In office (5 – 9 p.m.)
- **October 27 & 29** – In office (5 – 9 p.m.)

As we step into this new bi-vocational ministry together, please know my door (and my phone) is open. If these times don't work for you, don't hesitate to reach out directly or call the church office, we can set up another time during the day or even over lunch.

I am truly looking forward to what God has in store for us in this next chapter.

Peace & Love,
Pastor Andy Elliott

DEACONS

Oct 5 – Pastor Andy Elliott,
World-Wide Communion

Oct 12 – Pastor Andy Elliott

Oct 19 – Pastor Andy Elliott

Oct 26 – Rev. Dr. David Henry

October Deacon: John A. Lacey

Paul Nickerson asks us to consider how we present ourselves to guests and visitors at Sunday worship.

POLISHING UP YOUR HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

As the new church year begins, it is a great time to update and fine-tune your first-time guest hospitality ministry. The first impression you make on a guest can be the difference between someone deciding church isn't for them, or the start of a journey of faith.

So here are a few "Tune-Up" reminders:

- **Greeters:** With signage, point guests to the door you want them to enter and have a greeter outside the door, weather permitting. This is a very welcoming gesture.
- **Information Table:** Have a well-marked information table to assist first-time guests. This will help with interior directions, kids' needs, etc. It is also an opportunity to get contact information.
- **Ushers and choir:** Make sure ushers greet well and assist people as needed. If you have a choir, consider having rehearsals end early enough so they can be out in the sanctuary engaging people.
- **Worship Service:** Be certain that the bulletin is easy for a first-time worshipper to follow along. Watch how many "in-house" announcements happen and have the worship leader offer a warm greeting.

- **After worship:** All of the above people are back on duty helping, starting conversations and thanking people for attending.
- **Follow Up:** A prompt thank you note, email, or text is greatly appreciated by a guest.

These are some key hospitality activities that really make a difference. And finally, the very best hospitality tip is to INVITE AND BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU! ♦

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 October:

Karen Blaisdell
Mike & Sue Fuller
Lillian Katsiaficas
Gil McLaughlin
Mary Smith
John Whitcomb
Jane Alley
Lynne Hundhammer
Nate Stephenson
John Lacey III
Erik Tainter



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



ADULT FORUM

Sundays at 8:15 a.m. in the Parlor

The Forum has been using the annual Reader's Digest devotional as a springboard for their sometimes-lively discussion. Please join us!

We have had three children/babies in worship in recent weeks. One visitor inquired about nursery coverage. Please speak with Bonnie Carter if you can help.



Beginning October 1 Wednesdays at 5:30 PM THE CHOSEN, Season 2

Join us in the Parlor. Bring your bag dinner and join in the viewing and discussion of this moving series that provides a fictional depiction of the life of Christ. We are always done by 7:30 p.m. Please come even if you missed Season 1. (Season 2 has 8 episodes, so this will run Oct 1 through Nov 19.)



Want to enjoy a night of theater and music? We have an opportunity for you! Join us at The Grand in Ellsworth on October 9 at 7 p.m. for the final dress rehearsal of **Grease**. It is "Pay What You Want" at the Grand. Wouldn't it be fun to go to a musical with a group from our 'Family'. We hope to see you there!

HALLOWEEN - Once again, we have been invited to participate in the YMCA Trunk or Treat. We have folks interested in working at the event, but we need candy donations. All candy should be at the church by Sunday, October 26, 2025. We had fun last year and were grateful that so many of you contributed treats. If you would like to help on Halloween, the event takes place from 4 - 6 p.m. in the Y parking lot. For more information, please contact Katharine Schrader.



DEDHAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH BAKED BEAN SUPPERS

These popular suppers take place on the **3rd Saturday of each month**, 5-6:30 p.m. Cost is \$12 per person. Menu: beans, hot dogs, brown bread, rolls, potato salad, coleslaw, and desserts.

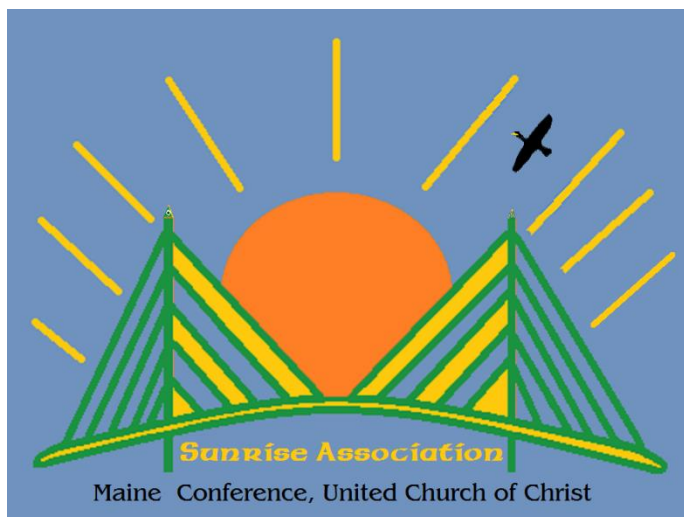
The Dedham UCC church is located at the corner of Rt. 46 & Mill Road. From Ellsworth, head north on 1A. At the large intersection after Dorsey Furniture, turn left at the light onto Rt. 46 and go 3½ miles.

Note: \$1 from each meal is donated to the Beth C. Wright Cancer Center's programs.



Neighbors in Need was affirmed as an all-church offering in a 1999 General Synod resolution. The resolution states: "Through this offering we will express our deep commitment to reaching out and touching neighbors with justice and compassion. This will allow us to speak prophetically to those in power and to advocate for a society where all people have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives."

FCC will collect gifts for this special mission offering during the month of October.



Sunrise Association Fall Meeting Saturday, October 4, 2025

9 a.m. - noon

Host: First Cong. Church of Cherryfield UCC
12 River Road, Cherryfield, ME 04622



Big changes happening at the Pilgrim Lodge campus

Perhaps you've heard. The Conference Office is moving to the Pilgrim Lodge campus in Fall of 2026! The Maine Conference Board of Directors decided to renovate the old Farmhouse at Pilgrim Lodge for administrative use. This investment in our own property will free us of \$36,000 a year in rent (!) and provide us with space for all our staff to work together year-round.

We have begun the work thanks to the proceeds of the sale of the Sebago Land Sale last year. To complete the project, we need to build together! Our covenant invites us all to share the joys and burdens of being the Maine Conference.

Proceeds from the land sale are to be used for demolition and construction. We need donations for the interior work that includes items as well as infrastructure. We are inviting you to partner with us in a capital campaign to build for the future of the Maine Conference.

One Vision. One Mission. One Home.

Our goal is to raise \$150,000 in monetary gifts or physical items. We know we can do this, because "*In Covenant, we build together.*"

You may choose to give a one-time cash donation or a monthly pledge over the next two years. Or you may choose to purchase an item.



MAINE CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ANNUAL MEETING 2025 at Pilgrim Lodge in West Gardiner Friday & Saturday, October 17 & 18

[Register online](#)

[Overnight lodging options](#)

[Meeting documents](#)

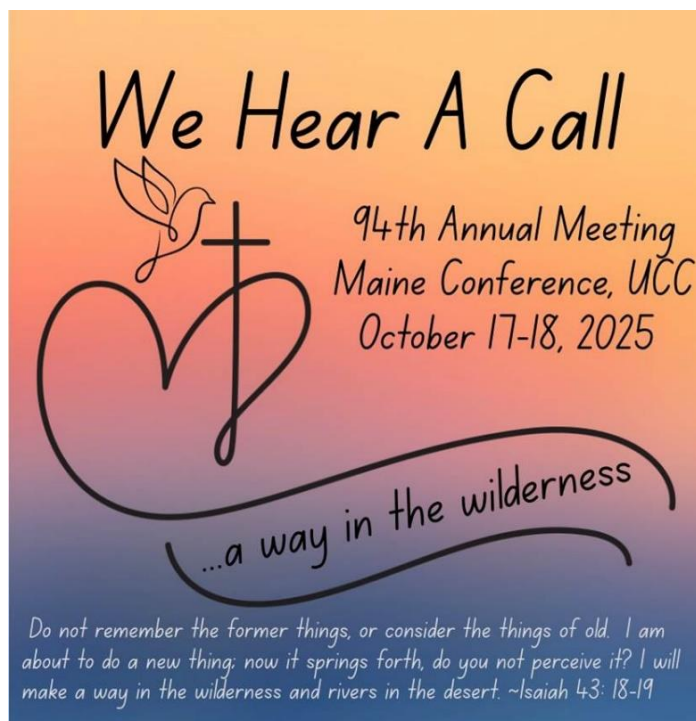
Friday, October 17

- 8:00 – 4:00 Registration table in Quitobaquito
- 8:00 – 12:00 Vendors set-up in Quitobaquito
- 7:45 – 8:45 Breakfast
- 9:00 – 11:30 Mini-Retreat for Authorized Ministers
“Witness at the Boundary Between Congregation and Society” Marvin Ellison
- 11:30 – 11:50 Free Time
- 12:00 – 5:00 Vendor Display Tables
- 12:00 – 1:00 Recognition and Remembrance Luncheon
- 1:00 – 1:50 Bible Study in Small Groups
- 2:00 – 3:15 Workshop #1
- 3:30 – 4:45 Workshop #2
- 5:00 – 6:00 Social Time
- 6:00 – 7:00 Dinner
- 7:00 – 9:00 Storytelling with Stephen Carnahan

Still undecided?
See Marisa's [Welcome Video](#)



Saturday, October 18

- 7:30 – 12:00 Registration table open
- 7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast & Social Time
- 8:00 – 3:30 Vendor Display Tables
- 8:30 – 8:45 Welcome & Land Acknowledgement
- 8:50 – 10:40 Plenary #1/Speak Out #1
- 10:40 – 11:00 Break
- 11:00 – 11:45 Bible Study in Small Groups
- 11:45 – 12:00 Transition to Quito/Responding Music
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch/Speak Out #2
- 1:00 – 2:15 Workshop #3
- 2:15 – 2:40 Pick Up Choir Rehearsal
- 3:00 – 4:45 Plenary #2
- 5:00 Closing Worship with Communion



A NEW SOUND SYSTEM is being used so the sound issues at last year's Annual meeting are RESOLVED! Hurray!

October 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|
|  | | | 1 2-3:30 pm Welcome Table take-out 5:30 pm The Chosen | 2 9 am Bulletin deadline 4 pm Chess Club 6 pm Choir | 3 OFFICE CLOSED | 4 Sunrise Assoc Fall Mtg Cherryfield 9 am-noon |
| 5 Green 8:15 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service & Communion | 6 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies activities 5 pm Andy office | 7 6 pm Boy Scouts | 8 2-3:30 pm Welcome Table take-out 5:30 pm The Chosen | 9 9 am Bulletin deadline 4 pm Chess Club 5 pm Andy office 6 pm Choir | 10 OFFICE CLOSED | 11 |
| 12 Green 8:15 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 11:30 am Christian Ed & Deacons | 13 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies activities 5 pm Andy office | 14 6 pm Boy Scouts | 15 2-3:30 pm Welcome Table take-out 5 pm Andy office 5:30 pm The Chosen | 16 9 am Bulletin deadline 4 pm Chess Club 5 pm Andy office 6 pm Choir 7 pm Trustees | 17 OFFICE CLOSED <div>Maine Conference UCC Annual Meeting</div> | 18 |
| 19 Green 8:15 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service | 20 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies activities 5 pm Andy office | 21 6 pm Boy Scouts | 22 2-3:30 pm Welcome Table take-out 5:30 pm The Chosen | 23 9 am Bulletin deadline 4 pm Chess Club 5 pm Andy office 6 pm Choir | 24 OFFICE CLOSED | 25 5 pm Turkey supper |
| 26 Green 8:15 am Adult Forum 10 am Worship Service 11:30 am Missions | 27 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Busy Bodies activities 5 pm Andy office 6:30 pm Council | 28 9 am Steeple deadline 6 pm Boy Scouts | 29 2-3:30 pm Welcome Table take-out | 30 9 am Bulletin deadline 4 pm Chess Club 5 pm Andy office 6 pm Choir | 31 OFFICE CLOSED |  |

Roast Turkey Supper

Saturday, October 25, 2024 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)

\$10 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.**

Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m.

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

Andy Elliott, Pastor
Joyce B. Cornwell, Secretary
Lynn Hall, Organist
Nancy Sargent, Choir Director
Sue Fuller, Moderator
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
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

207-667-8321 office@ellsworthucc.org ellsworthucc.org

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.