



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.*

*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
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
WORLD COMMUNION**

October 5, 2025

10 a.m.

RINGING THE BELL

9:45 a.m.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

*The Church's One Foundation
How Great Thou Art*

arr. Burton
arr. Carter

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT *Come Touch Our Hearts*

Light

Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,
From failing embers build a blazing fire;
Love strong enough to overturn injustice,
To seek a world more gracious, come touch and bless our hearts.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: We are called to the strange places, to the margins, the borderlands,
and the spaces of exile.

**All: We acknowledge that God is not confined to our walls but meets
us in displacement and uncertainty.**

One: Like the prophet Jeremiah, we are called to “build houses, plant
gardens, and seek the welfare of the city,” finding shalom right where
we are planted.

**All: We commit to justice, knowing that our creative flourishing is an
act of spiritual resistance.**

One: Jesus grants salvation, a total restoration of dignity, to the excluded,
and we celebrate the radical gratitude of the Samaritan outsider.

**All: We offer radical thanks to the Divine, whose grace restores
belonging, especially to those pushed to the edges. Come, let us
worship the God of the Margins, ready to be made whole and
ready to do the work of a more just world.**

*HYMN

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

2

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

Holy God, Source of All Wholeness and Justice,

**We gather, carrying the exiles we know, displacement, doubt, and
complexity. Forgive us for seeking you only in the familiar ways and
remind us that you are present in the strange places.**

We thank you for Jeremiah's instruction: to not wait for rescue, but to build and plant right where we are. Give us courage to pursue the hopeful work of goodness, seeking the shalom and welfare of our city. We thank you for the radical witness of Jesus, who grants holistic wholeness to the excluded. Open our eyes to the healing on the margins, and humble us so that our gratitude, like the Samaritan's, leads to deep spiritual transformation.

Unite our body, mind, and spirit as we worship. Heal what is broken within us and compel us to join the work of healing broken systems. May the grace we receive here make us agents of justice there. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME FOR ALL AGES

Finding Our Center in the Margins

***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

Come, Share His Sacrifice

Lantz

Hands of Jesus, hands divine, serve us with your bread and wine.
Feed our hearts with heaven's food. Fill our souls with all that's good.
Eyes of Jesus, help us find grace and mercy for the blind.
Show us how to share your Word with a soul who's never heard.
Broken body, blood outpoured, offered up by Christ, our Lord.
Willingly, he paid the price. Come and share his sacrifice.
Heart of Jesus, may I live as you require, my all to give.
May your heart now beat through mine while at your table now I dine.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Illuminating Presence, Holy Spirit,

As these ancient words are opened, we pray that you open our hearts. Shatter our preconceptions that confine You to predictable places. Give us the vision to see Your truth active in the chaos of exile, the dignity in displacement, and the ultimate act of wholeness on the margins.

Illuminate our comfortable spaces so we may recognize our own "Babylons" and learn how to build, plant, and seek justice there. Let this Word not simply rest in our minds but move us toward active gratitude and compassionate service.

May the sacred text be heard and applied, for the healing of the world and the deepening of our faith. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament

Jeremiah 29:1-7

pew Bible p.690 OT

Gospel

Luke 17:11-19

pew Bible p.70 NT

SERMON

Wholeness in Strange Places

Pastor Elliott

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Donna, Deborah, Abby, Dan, Jane

Choral Response *Let the words of my mouth*

Wiersbe

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*Hymn

Let us break bread together

425

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread & Cup

(Communion liturgy continued next page →)

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Dedication (unison)

Gracious God, we thank you for this meal of mercy and hope. Even in strange places, you feed us and make us whole. Like the one who returned to give thanks, we lift our hearts in gratitude. Send us out to seek the peace of the city, to plant seeds of justice and compassion, and to share the wholeness we have received in Christ. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY *Joy Comes with the Dawn* Light

*DOXOLOGY 46

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN	<i>Now thank we all our God</i>	715
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BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE *May the Peace* Yannerella

May the peace of the Lord go with you.

May you walk in his truth and light.

May the love of the Lord sustain you

In the sunshine and through the night.

POSTLUDE *Go Forth in Peace* Turner

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Come, Share His Sacrifice, words John Parker, music David Lantz III © 2007 Beckenhorst Press
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May the peace, words Mary Kay Beall, music Charles Yannerella © 1987 Hope Publishing Co.
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Lynn Hall, *Organist*
Nancy Sargent, *Choral Director*
Anne Bancroft, *Liturgist*
Andy Elliott, *Pastor*
Cindy Sargent & Rev. John A. Lacey, *Communion Stewards*
Sue & Mike Fuller, *Ushers*
Lois Stevens, *Greeter*
Ruth & Troy Tainter, *Facebook, WDEA & Zoom*
Rev. John A. Lacey, *October Deacon*

Thank you for sitting in the front half of the sanctuary today.

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

Neighbors in Need

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

-Galatians 6:2

THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 90 MEALS ON OCTOBER 1.

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.



Neighbors in Need

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

-Galatians 6:2

Advocacy is essential to participating in God's mission in the world.

Gifts to the **Neighbors in Need** offering support ministries of justice and compassion in the United Church of Christ, including the UCC Office of Public Policy & Advocacy in Washington D.C.



The UCC Washington D.C. Office was called into being by a resolution at General Synod 10 in 1975. The office was assigned to identify, analyze, and forecast social issues which called for the attention of the church. The work has always been guided by the discernment of the UCC through General Synod gatherings and resolutions that collectively witness to God's call.

Each week the Washington D.C. Office creates an action alert to help give church members the opportunity to contact legislators simply and easily. In 2025 these weekly alerts have encouraged church members to fight for disability housing accommodations, to stop the gun violence epidemic, and to support environmental justice for all.

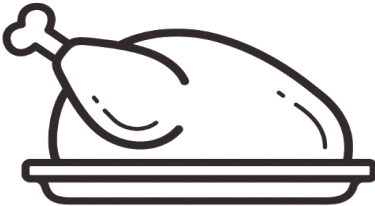
Thank you for your generosity!

Roast Turkey Supper

Saturday, October 25, 2025

5:00 to 6:30 pm

*Come help us celebrate our 100th public supper!
Our usual delicious supper with **SURPRISES!***



*Roast turkey, gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes,
rolls, squash, peas, Caesar 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



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