



First Congregational Church UCC – Founded 1812

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*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
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

November 9, 2025

10 a.m.

RINGING THE BELL

9:45 a.m.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
I Love to Tell the Story*

arr. Page
Fischer

WELCOME

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies.
Lord of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: We come today to worship the God who calls us beyond comfort and convenience.

All: We come to love not just in words, but through mercy that moves and compassion that costs.

One: God says, “Is not this the fast I choose—to loose the bonds of injustice, to share bread with the hungry, to bring the homeless poor into your house?”

All: We come ready to see our neighbor in every face and to serve with generous hearts.

One: Like the Samaritan on the road, we are called to stop, to see, and to act.

All: We will not pass by on the other side; we will love as Christ has loved us.

One: Then our light shall break forth like the dawn, and God’s glory shall be our guide.

All: Come, let us worship the Lord—the One who teaches us the true cost of caring.

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

Gracious God, You meet us on the road—in the places we rush past, in the faces we fail to see, and in the quiet tug of Your Spirit calling us to stop, to notice, to love. As we gather in Your presence, remind us that true worship is not confined to these walls, but lived out in mercy, compassion, and generosity. When our hearts grow weary or guarded, renew us with Your light.

Teach us again what it means to give of ourselves—our time, our strength, our resources—for the sake of another. Let this time of worship open us to Your transforming grace, so that we may leave here ready to bear the cost of caring, and to walk in the way of Christ, our neighbor and our Savior. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME FOR ALL AGES

What’s in the backpack?

***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.

SOLO

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

arr. Nix

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

God of truth and mercy, Send Your Spirit to rest upon our hearts and open our minds to Your Word. As we hear the stories of faith and compassion, let us not only understand them but live them. May the scriptures today awaken in us a deeper desire to act with justice, to love with humility, and to serve with courage. Through Christ, the Living Word, we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament
Gospel

Isaiah 58:6-11
Luke 10:25-37

pew Bible p.648 OT
pew Bible p.62 NT

SERMON

The Cost of Caring

The Samaritan paid with time, resources, and empathy
—true stewardship in motion.

*HYMN

Dream, God's dream!

Refrain



Dream God's dream! Ho-ly Spir - it help us dream of a world where there is
jus - tice and where ev - 'ry-one is free to build and grow and love, and to
sim - ply have e - nough. The world will change, when we dream God's dream.
I'm dream-ing of a world where the col - or of one's
I'm dream-ing of the call God is of - fer-ing to
I'm dream-ing of the way that I want my life to
skin will mean less than what's with - in the per - son's heart.
me, how to use my en - er - gy and my best gifts;
go. I've got hope and I've got goals I'd like to meet.
A world where wa-ter's clean and where air is safe to breathe. And
to do the work of Christ to say God, please use my life to
I'm reach - ing for the stars, but I won't for - get the scars of
ev - 'ry chi - ld born has e - nough to eat.
spread Your heal - ing love and to live Your truth.
Christ who died to show that the dream's for all.

Music & lyrics Bryan Sirchio © 1991 Crosswind Music
Sirchio gave permission to use the song in conjunction with the 2025 UCC Stewardship theme materials.

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Nicole, Gregg, David & Susan

Response (all) *Hear our prayer, O Lord* 306

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord;

Incline thine ear to us and grant us thy peace.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY *Sing Alleluia to the Lord* Stassen

*DOXOLOGY 46

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN *Here I Am, Lord* 452

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE (all) *Go in peace* 445

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day.

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.

Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate new life!

Go peace and the peace of God be with you always.

POSTLUDE *Trumpet Rondo* arr. Harris

For the beauty of the earth, words Folliot S. Pierpoint 1864, tune DIX Conrad Kocher 1838 | Public Domain

Hear our prayer, words Psalm 143:1, music George Whelpton 1897 | Public Domain

Go in peace, words Barber L. Waters, tune OCEAN PARK Kenneth E. White

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Lynn Hall, *Organist*

Andy Elliott, *Pastor*

Rev. John A. Lacey, *Liturgist*

Chris Wilson & Cindy Sargent, *Ushers*

Lois Stevens, *Greeter*

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

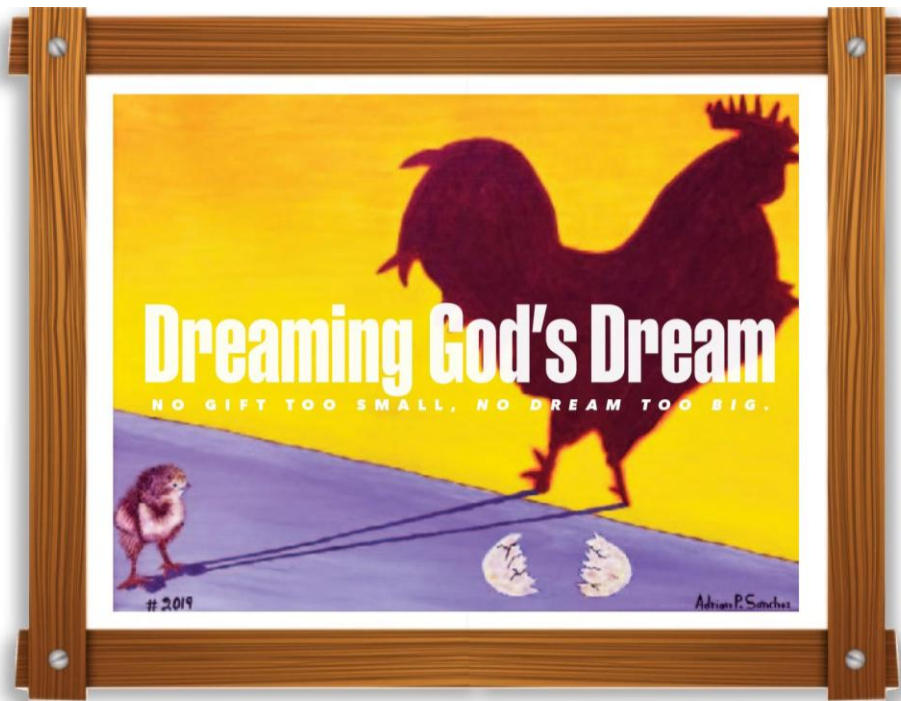
Cindy Sargent, *November Deacon*

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

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

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.



Feeding the 5000

CAN ONE SMALL GIFT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE AT ALL?

All the Gospels tell the story of Jesus feeding 5000 people (John 6:1-14) with only five loaves and two fish. But the Gospel of John focuses our attention on the role of a little boy. Faced with a crowd of hungry people, Jesus looked for help feeding them. The little boy stepped forward with a modest gift, improbably small when set against the size of the crowd.

Jesus blessed the small gift and distributed it to the crowd. As Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade observes, "Like the folk story of Stone Soup where travelers ask for a large kettle and a stone as a starter for the community stew, we might imagine Jesus calling for a basket to pass around the food. It may have looked comical to see such a tiny amount of food in such a large basket. But then something interesting happened. As he passed the

basket to his disciples, suddenly more baskets appeared. Surprisingly, there was food in those baskets as well!"

We dream big in church. The Gospel moves us to imagine addressing poverty, stopping conflicts, reconciling enemies, and building the kin-dom of God. Our gifts may seem small next to the big dreams of our congregation. But like the Feeding of the 5000, God's amazing work begins with our small gifts.

What might God do with what you have to offer?



THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 96 MEALS ON NOVEMBER 5.

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