



**First Congregational Church UCC – Founded 1812**  
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[ellsworthucc.org](http://ellsworthucc.org) [facebook.com/fccellsworth](http://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  
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
HOLY COMMUNION**

**January 4, 2026** **10 a.m.**

**RINGING THE BELL** **9:45 a.m.**

**LIGHTING THE CANDLES**

**PRELUDE** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* arr. Larson  
*All is Well* arr. Page

**WELCOME**

## CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: Come, you who have walked long roads—with hope, with grief, with questions still unanswered.

**All: We come, drawn by a light we cannot ignore.**

One: Sing aloud with gladness, says the Holy One—for God is gathering the scattered and lifting the weary.

**All: God turns our mourning into joy and meets us on the way home.**

One: Today we celebrate Epiphany—the revealing of God's presence among us, grace made visible, love made flesh.

**All: We come to see, to receive, and to follow.**

One: Let us worship the God who leads us by streams of mercy, who calls us beloved, and who still shines light into the world.

**All: Let us worship God.**

\*HYMN

*We three kings*

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## \*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

**Holy God, You gather the scattered and lead us by paths of mercy. You shine light into our darkness and speak grace into our lives. As we worship today, open our eyes to see your presence, open our hearts to receive your joy, and open our lives to follow your light. Amen.**

## INTERGENERATIONAL CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## \*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.**

## CHORAL ANTHEM

*O Precious Child of Bethlehem*

Courtney

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**God of light, as your Word is read and proclaimed, shine into our hearts and minds. Open us to truth, awaken us to grace, and help us recognize your presence among us, so that hearing, we may believe, and believing, we may follow. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament

Jeremiah 31:7-14

pew Bible p.692 OT

Gospel

John 1:(1-9), 10-18

pew Bible p.79 NT

## SERMON

**Power to Become Children of God**

Rev. Henry

## HOLY COMMUNION

\*Hymn *One bread, one body* 393

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread &amp; Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving &amp; Dedication (unison)

**Gracious God, we thank you for meeting us at this table—for bread shared, cup poured, and grace freely given. You have fed us with your presence and filled us with light and joy. Now send us into the world to live what we have received, to follow your light, and to share your love. We dedicate ourselves to you, in gratitude and hope. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*Seek ye first*

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## MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays:

Linda, Gayle, Leslie, Amber, Bruce, Chris

Choral Response

*Dresden Amen*

Naumann

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY

*I Wonder as I Wander*

arr. Walz

\*DOXOLOGY

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\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN

*Precious Lord, take my hand*

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## BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

Lutkin

The Lord bless you and keep you,  
the Lord lift his countenance upon you; and give you peace,  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious unto you.

POSTLUDE

*Trumpet Voluntary*

Young

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*The Lord Bless You and Keep You*, words & music Peter Lutkin © 1959, 1960 The Lorenz Corporation  
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Lynn Hall, *Organist & Flautist*

Nancy Sargent, *Choral Director*

Rev. Dr. David Henry, *Guest Minister*

Rev. John A. Lacey, *Liturgist*

Anne Bancroft & Cindy Sargent, *Communion Stewards*

Donna Shea & Myrna Vallette, *Ushers*

Lois Stevens, *Greeter*

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

Steve Merchant, *January Deacon*

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

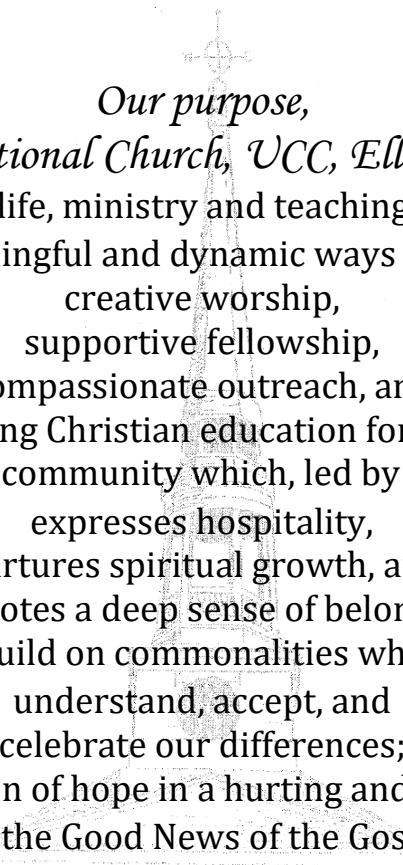
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## **VISITORS, GUESTS, AND SEEKERS ARE WELCOME**

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 4,986 MEALS IN 2025.**

The WELCOME TABLE, our free community meal, serves take-out only on Wednesdays from 2-3:30 p.m. 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*