

**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  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT & HOLY COMMUNION**

**December 7, 2025**

**10 a.m.**

RINGING THE BELL

9:45 a.m.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

*Creator of the Stars of Night  
Immanuel/O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

arr. Lau  
arr. Page  
arr. Ham

WELCOME

## CHORAL INTROIT

*One candle is lit*

Kirkpatrick

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare  
For a gift that compels us with justice to care.  
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.  
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

## CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: In a world where anxiety runs deep and fear divides neighbor from neighbor

**All: We come seeking the peace that restores and makes us whole.**

One: God is still building a world where compassion overturns harm and courage quiets the noise of conflict.

**All: We come to listen for that vision and to walk in its light.**

One: Peace is not the absence of struggle, but the presence of love that refuses to let go.

**All: We come to let that love take root in us.**

One: As we gather, may our hearts open, our attention sharpen, and our spirits prepare room for God's peace in this neighborhood and beyond.

**All: Come, let us worship the One who leads us toward shalom.**

## \*HYMN

*Come, O long-expected Jesus*

125

## \*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

**God of Peace, as we gather in this sacred space, quiet our restless spirits and open us to your gentle presence. Settle the noise around us and the worry within us, so we may hear the whisper of your healing love. Draw us toward the peace that transforms neighborhoods, softens hearts, and strengthens community. Meet us here and shape us into people who carry your peace into every place we go. Amen.**

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

## CHRISMON TREE DECORATIONS

### INTERGENERATIONAL CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

A small light in a storm

#### \*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     *Hope, Peace, Joy & Love*

Martin

Hope is like a candle burning in the night.  
Hope paints every shadow with its gentle light.  
Glowing like a promise till our faith is sight.  
Hope is like a candle in the night.  
Peace is like sweet music sounding pure and strong,  
Singing songs of comfort when the night is long.  
Turning drums of hatred into heaven's song,  
Peace is like sweet music pure and strong.  
Joy is like a flower blooming in the soul,  
Sending forth its fragrance to heal and make us whole.  
And when bitter winds are blowing, when birds refuse to sing,  
Joy can turn our winter into spring.  
Love is like a diamond wrapped in purest gold.  
Nothing is more precious, nothing brought or sold.  
Pearl of heaven's glory, wondrous to behold,  
Love is like a diamond wrapped in gold.  
Joy is like a flower. Peace is like sweet music.  
Hope is like a candle in the night.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**God of Peace, quiet our hearts and open our minds as we listen for your Word. Shine your light on these scriptures so we may hear truth, receive wisdom, and be shaped into people who carry your peace into the world. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament	Isaiah 11:1-10	pew Bible p.600 OT
Epistle	Romans 15:4-13	pew Bible p.143 NT
Gospel	Matthew 3:1-12	pew Bible p.2 NT

## SERMON

### **Building a Neighborhood Where Shalom Belongs to Everyone**

## HOLY COMMUNION

\*Hymn *One bread, one body* 393

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration – Prayer for Peace

Sharing the Bread & Cup

Prayer of Thanks & Dedication (unison)

**God of Peace, thank you for feeding us with grace and strength. As we leave this table, send us out as instruments of your healing and compassion. Let your peace take root in us and flow through us to every neighbor we meet. Amen.**

## MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Peter, Julianna

Choral Response *Into my heart* Clarke

Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus;

Come in today, come in to stay, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY	<i>Advent Song</i>	Walker
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*DOXOLOGY		46
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\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN	<i>All earth is waiting</i>	139
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BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE	<i>Benediction</i>	Van Dyk
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POSTLUDE	<i>Trumpet Tune</i>	Giamanco
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*Hope, Peace, Joy and Love*, words & music Joseph M. Martin © 2003 Malcolm Music BMI  
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*Into my heart*, words & music Harry D. Clarke 1924 | Public Domain

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

Lynn Hall, *Organist*  
Nancy Sargent, *Choral Director*  
Andy Elliott, *Pastor*  
Martin Vachon, *Liturgist*  
Amber, Justine, Gracelynn & Lexi Elliott, *Advent Candlelighters*  
Rev. John A. Lacey & Nancy Kellner, *Chrismon Tree Decorations*  
Cindy Sargent & Rev. John A. Lacey, *Communion Stewards*  
Sue Farkas & Cindy Sargent, *Ushers*  
Lois Stevens, *Greeter*  
Ruth & Troy Tainter, *Facebook, WDEA & Zoom*  
Katharine Schrader, *December Deacon*

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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.



**...WHEN THEY SAW THE STAR,  
THEY WERE FILLED WITH JOY...**

**MATTHEW 2:10**

**Be the Light**

## **More Than Giving**

From the many letters and stories the Pension Boards has received from those touched by gifts from The Christmas Fund, we share these words:

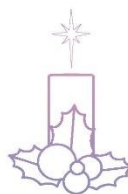


**I want to have the sense that I am choosing to give because I am looking to see God's love in the gift and rejoicing in it. I sense there is more to my giving to The Christmas Fund than I have touched on so far. I sense that more is wrapped up in my looking for God's love in what I choose to give.**

**- Jim Silver, retired UCC Pastor  
Middletown, CT**

Thanks to your generosity, last year The Christmas Fund provided over \$1.7 million in pension and health benefits, emergency grants, and thank-you checks to retired clergy and their families.

Every gift came from people like you. This year, please give what you can to continue supporting those who have devoted their lives to serving others.



This Christmas, celebrate the blessings in your life by making a gift to our ministers, church workers, and their families.

Visit [christmasfund.org](http://christmasfund.org) to learn more and donate online.



**Donate Online Here!**



## **DECEMBER 14, COMMUNITY CHOIR CONCERT**

**at 3 P.M.** Churches and choirs from all over Hancock County have been invited to participate in a Christmas Concert with everyone participating in a mass choir number. Please put this on your calendar. We hope that this will become an annual event for the holiday season. Please come and enjoy the music of the holidays!

### **THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 120 MEALS ON DECEMBER 3.**

**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*



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST