

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Ellsworth, Maine



Founded in 1812

*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
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

February 1, 2026

10 a.m.

RINGING THE BELL

9:45 a.m.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

*Let Us Break Bread Together
Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

arr. Gaspard
arr. Denton

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

Just as I am

Bradbury

Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bid'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: Come, all who are weary and longing for hope.

All: We come seeking God's grace for the journey.

One: Come, all who hunger for justice, mercy, and peace.

All: We come to be nourished by God's love.

One: Come, all who walk humbly and yearn for blessing.

All: We come ready for grace to take root in our hearts.

One: Come, for Christ welcomes us just as we are.

All: We come to worship, to be filled, and to be sent in love.

*HYMN

God of grace and God of glory

464

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

Gracious and loving God, we come into your presence seeking grace for the journey ahead. Nourish our hearts with your love today. Let your grace take root within us, growing into lives shaped by compassion, humility, and hope. Teach us to walk in your ways to love mercy, to seek what is good, and to reflect your light in the world. May our worship draw us closer to you and prepare us to live as your people beyond these walls. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

INTERGENERATIONAL CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

What grows in our hearts?

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

In Remembrance

Ragan & Red

In remembrance of me, eat this bread.

In remembrance of me, drink this wine.

In remembrance of me, pray for the time when God's own will is done.

In remembrance of me, heal the sick.

In remembrance of me, feed the poor.

In remembrance of me, open the door and let your brother in. Let him in.

Take, eat and be comforted. Drink, and remember, too,

That this is my body and precious blood, Shed for you, shed for you.

In remembrance of me, search for truth.

In remembrance of me, always love.

In remembrance of me, don't look above,

But in your heart, in your heart. Look in your heart for God.

Do this in remembrance of me.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Loving God, open our hearts and minds to your Word today. Plant your truth within us, that it may take root and grow into lives of faith, hope, and love. Guide us by your Spirit as we listen, that we may hear what you are saying to us now. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament

Micah 6:1-8

pew Bible p.819 OT

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

pew Bible p.3 NT

SERMON

Nourished for the Journey

When grace takes root.

HOLY COMMUNION

*Hymn *Here at thy table, Lord* 384

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread & Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Dedication (unison)

Gracious God, thank you for this gift of grace that nourishes our hearts. May the love we have received take root in our lives and guide us as we follow Jesus in the world. Send us out renewed in faith, hope, and love, ready to live as your people each day. Amen.

*HYMN *Seek ye first* 354

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Julie, Cathy, Aaron

Choral Response *Amen* Danish

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY *Enviado* trad.

*DOXOLOGY 46

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN *Come to me, O weary traveler* 353

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE *Blest be the tie that binds* Nägeli
Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

POSTLUDE *The Courts of Praise* Logan

Just as I am, words Charlotte Elliott 1835, tune WOODWORTH William B. Bradbury 1849 | Public Domain

In Remembrance Ragan Courtney & Buryl Red
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Blest be the tie, words John Fawcett 1872, tune DENNIS Johann G. Nägeli 1828 | Public Domain

Lynn Hall, *Organist*
Nancy Sargent, *Choral Director*
Andy Elliott, *Pastor*
Myrna Vallette, *Liturgist*
Cindy Sargent & Rev. John A. Lacey, *Communion Stewards*
Sue & Ken Farkas, *Ushers*
Lois Stevens, *Greeter*
Ruth & Troy Tainter, *Facebook, WDEA & Zoom*
Steve Merchant, *January Deacon*

VISITORS, GUESTS, AND SEEKERS ARE WELCOME

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.

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

Roast Turkey Supper

Saturday, February 28, 2026

Serving 5:00 to 6:30 pm



Roast turkey, stuffing, gravy, green beans, glazed carrots, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, Caesar salad, rolls, 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.**

THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 125 MEALS ON JANUARY 28.

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.

(When Ellsworth public schools are closed for inclement weather, there is no Welcome Table that day.)

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



First Congregational Church UCC - Founded 1812

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