

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
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

February 8, 2026 **10 a.m.**

RINGING THE BELL 9:45 a.m.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE *Little Rondo*
I Am a Poor, Wayfaring Stranger Blake
arr. Page

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT *This is the day* Garrett

This is the day, this is the day
That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: Let us offer ourselves to God in worship.

All: We come as we are with nothing in secret.

One: We pray for healing or our weaknesses and forgiveness of our failures.

All: We seek renewal of our spirits and refreshment in our lives.

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

Lord, our God, who is always present when we seek you, be with us now as we pray. Help us set aside all that would keep us from you. Make us ready for your touch, and hungry and thirsty for all that you will tell us. Open our eyes to see what you will show us. Excite us with the call to serve. Enable us now in our worship and lead us in our living, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME FOR ALL AGES & 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

Reflections on Love

Martin

Though I speak with the tongues of angels,
If I learn all the secrets of stars in the night,
Though I gather great wealth, and harvest all knowledge,
If I learn all the mysteries life,
Though I call upon faith to move mountains, if I give away all that I own,
Though I right every wrong, and I sing heaven's song,
Without love I have nothing at all.
Though I speak with the voice of a prophet,
If I offer my life in the service of man, if I pass through the deep,
And climb every mountain, if I hold all the world in my hand,
If I lift up my voice to the heavens, if I'm faithful to honor my call,
If I finish the race, win honor and praise, without love I have nothing at all.
Without love we are singers in search of a song.
Without love, no heart is complete until love makes it strong.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Lord, open now your word to us and open us to receive and understand it. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament

Proverbs 10:6-12

pew Bible p.555 OT

Gospel

Matthew 5:38-48

pew Bible p.4 NT

SERMON

Perspective

Rev. John A. Lacey

*HYMN

They'll Know We Are Christians

494

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays:

Michael, Christopher, Gracelynn, Ken

Choral Response

Amen

Stainer

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY

Listen

Hanson & Murakami

*DOXOLOGY

46

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult

337

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE *A Parting Blessing* Williams

May the road rise to meet you; may the wind be always at your back;
May the sun shine warm upon your face.
May the rain fall soft upon your fields; and until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

POSTLUDE

Joyful!

Schram

This is the day, words Psalm 118:24, para. Les Garrett, music Les Garrett

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Reflections on Love, words & music Joseph M. Martin

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A Parting Blessing, text traditional Irish, music J. Jerome Williams

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Lynn Hall, *Organist & Flautist*

Nancy Sargent, *Choral Director*

Rev. John A. Lacey, *Guest Minister*

Cathy Engel, *Liturgist*

Ginny Davis & Anne Bancroft, *Ushers*

Lois Stevens, *Greeter*

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

Anne Bancroft, *February 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.

THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 125 MEALS ON FEBRUARY 4.

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.)

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

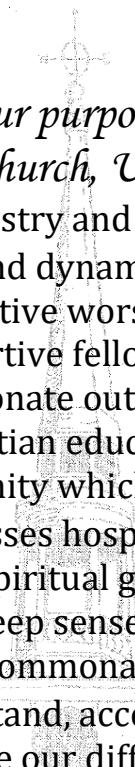
\$25 per family (2 adults, 2 children)

Great food ~ Great company ~ Great fun

Take-out available

*Handicap accessible at the State Street entrance
For more info, call Lois at 207-669-2028*

**We need volunteers to set up, cook, serve, wash dishes, and bake pies.
Please contact Lois Stevens immediately about the ways you can**



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

PO Box 12, 2 Church Street

Ellsworth, Maine 04605

207-667-8321 office@ellsworthucc.org

ellsworthucc.org facebook.com/fccellsworth