

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 TRANSFIGURATION

February 15, 2026

10 a.m.

RINGING THE BELL

9:45 a.m.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

*Be Thou My Vision
The Gift of Love*

arr. Larson
arr. Hopson

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT *Where the Spirit of the Lord is*

Adams

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is peace.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is love.

There is comfort in life's darkest hour, there is light and life,

There is help and power in the Spirit, in the Spirit of the Lord.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Psalm 29:2, 11

One: Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name.

All: Worship the LORD in holy splendor.

One: May the LORD give strength to his people!

All: May the LORD bless his people with peace!

*HYMN

To God be the glory

72

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

Prayer of St. Augustine

**Eternal God, you are the light of the minds that know you,
the joy of the hearts that love you,
and the strength of the wills that serve you.**

**Grant us so to know you that we may truly love you,
and so to love you that we may fully serve you,
whom to serve is perfect freedom. 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

Beautiful Saviour

arr. Kirk

Beautiful Saviour, King of Creation, Son of God, and Son of man!

Truly I'd love Thee; truly I'd serve Thee,

Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown!

Fair are the meadows; fairer the woodlands,

Robed in the flowers of blooming spring.

Jesus is fairer; Jesus is purer. He makes our soaring spirit sing.

Beautiful Saviour, Lord of the nations, Son of God, and Son of man!

Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forever more be Thine!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. O Father, please open us to your Word. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalter
Gospel

Psalm 99:1-5, 9
Matthew 17:1-13

hymnal #751
pew Bible p.16 NT

SERMON

Listen to Him!

Rev. Dr. Henry

*HYMN

Transform us

182

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Kara, Carole, Steve & Lisa, Bonnie & Tim

Choral Response *Hear our prayer, O Lord*

Whelpton

Hear our prayer, O Lord, incline thine ear to us and grant us your peace.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY

Spirit

Manley

*DOXOLOGY

46

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN

Crown him with many crowns

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BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

The Lord Be With You

Yannerella

POSTLUDE

Joyful Jig

Harris

Where the Spirit, words & music Stephen R. Adams © Pilot Point Music
CCLI License # 11546442 Streaming # 20543232

Gathering Prayer, *Prayer of St. Augustine*, Augustine of Hippo, 5th century bishop & theologian (adapt.)

Beautiful Saviour, text translation Joseph Seiss | Public Domain

Tune from Schlesische Volkslieder, arr. Jerry Kirk © 1976 Lillenas Publishing Co.

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

Lynn Hall, *Organist*

Nancy Sargent, *Choral Director*

Rev. Dr. David Henry, *Guest Minister*

Rev. John A. Lacey, *Liturgist*

Cindy Sargent & Donna Shea, *Ushers*

Lois Stevens, *Greeter*

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

Anne Bancroft, *February Deacon*

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

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.



Lent begins this Wednesday, February 18, 2026. This is a season of intentional preparation, reflection, and spiritual discipline. Focus on deepening faith through fasting, prayer, Scripture study, and acts of service to prepare for Easter. Here are some ways to observe Lent, the 40 days, excluding Sundays, from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday:

- **Fasting/Giving Up:** Abstain from a comfort or habit (e.g., social media, coffee, shopping, sweets) to create more space for God, focusing on self-denial and reflection.
- **Adding Spiritual Disciplines:** Take on new habits such as reading a daily Lenten devotional, journaling, praying through the Psalms (especially penitential Psalms 6, 32, 51, 102, 130, 143).
- **Almsgiving/Service:** Focus on others by giving money saved from fasting to charity or volunteering time to help the needy.
- **Ash Wednesday & Holy Week:** Participate in Ash Wednesday services, which may include the imposition of ashes to mark the start of the season. Focus on the Passion of Jesus during Holy Week leading up to Easter.
- **Focus on Reflection:** Use this time to examine your heart, repent, and renew your commitment to follow Jesus, rather than just "feeling bad" about sins.
- **Flexibility:** Protestant observance of Lent is voluntary and emphasizes a voluntary, heart-felt return to God rather than strict, enforced rules.

Hospice Event, Thursday, February 26, 2026, 10 a.m. - noon, in the Parlor. Come together for a morning of connection, discovery, and conversation. Learn about Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County and hear local author, Alice Hildebrand, speak about her book, "A Matter of Death and Life".



RSVP by phone, 207-667-2531 or info@hospiceofhancock.org. Register online at <https://www.hospiceofhancock.org/education/>

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

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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