

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)

Psalms 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

Psalms 99:1-5, 9

hymnal #751

Gospel

Matthew 17:1-13

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*

234

## 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, 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Whelpton 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](mailto: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**

PO Box 12, 2 Church Street

Ellsworth, Maine 04605

207-667-8321 office@ellsworthucc.org

ellsworthucc.org facebook.com/fccellsworth