

First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Ellsworth, Maine

SECOND SUNDAY IN  
LENT

*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.***

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**ORDER OF WORSHIP  
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT  
HOLY COMMUNION**

**March 1, 2026**

**10 a.m.**

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

*I Want Jesus to Walk With Me  
There is a Redeemer*

arr. Sewell  
arr. Page

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

*Come Touch Our Hearts*

Light

Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,  
From failing embers build a blazing fire;  
Love strong enough to overturn injustice,  
To seek a world more gracious, come touch and bless our hearts.

## CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: God calls us, just as God called Abram, to leave what is familiar and step into a promise we cannot yet fully see.

**All: We come trusting the One who leads us on the journey.**

One: In the quiet of the night, Nicodemus came with questions, seeking understanding, longing for new life.

**All: We come with our questions, our doubts, and our hopes.**

One: The Spirit moves where it will, calling us to be born anew, shaped not by fear, but by love.

**All: We come to be renewed by the Spirit of God.**

One: This is the beginning of the journey, from certainty to trust, from old ways to new life.

**All: Let us worship the God who calls us forward, who meets us on the way, and who loves the world into new beginnings.**

\*HYMN

*Come, thou fount of every blessing*

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\*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

**God of new beginnings, you call us beyond what is familiar and meet us in our questions and hopes. Breathe your Spirit among us. Renew our hearts and give us courage to follow where you lead. As we begin this Lenten journey, gather us in your grace and open us to your transforming love. Amen.**

## SPECIAL MOMENTS

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

*Think of Me*

Thygeron

Come and drink of the wine, think of me;

The blood shed for you, think of me.

As you come to the table today, humble be with the words that you say.

Think of me. Break the bread, take and eat, think of me;

Body nailed to the cross, think of me.

Pray that God's will be done, let it be.

Cast away all your sins, think of me.

When you sip from the cup and offer a prayer,

Do this in remembrance of me.

Pray for peace, pray for love from the Father above.

May your heart let me in; think of me.

When you meet to commune, think of me;

Pour the wine, break the bread, think of me.

As you seek to renew God's pledge made to you, think of me,

Drink the wine, think of me, eat the bread, think of me.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Holy God, by your Spirit, open our hearts and minds to hear your Word with courage and trust. Where we are uncertain, guide us; where we are weary, renew us. Speak to us in ways that lead us into new life. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament

Genesis 12:1-4a

pew Bible p.9 OT

Gospel

John 3:1-17

pew Bible p.81 NT

SERMON **Where We've Been and Where God is Leading**

Trusting the promise as we go.

## HOLY COMMUNION

\*Hymn *In this very room* 295

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread & Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Dedication (unison)

**God of grace, we give you thanks for this holy meal, for meeting us on the journey and nourishing us with your love. As you called Abram to step forward in trust and met Nicodemus with new life, send us now, renewed by your Spirit, to walk in faith, courage, and hope. Strengthen us for the road ahead, so that through our lives your love may bless the world. Amen.**

\*HYMN *Holy Wisdom* 258

## MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Abby, Susan

Choral Response *Amen* Dresden

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY *The King of Love, My Shepherd Is* Livingston

\*DOXOLOGY 46

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN *Lord, whose love through humble service* 461

## BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE     *God Bless You and Keep You*     Althouse  
God bless you and keep you wherever you may go;  
His love be a constant companion.  
God lead you and guide you and be at your side.  
God bless you and keep you forever.

POSTLUDE                     *Celebration for Trumpet*                     Thygerson

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*God bless you & keep you*, music Jay Althouse © 1985 GlorySound  
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Lynn Hall, *Organist*  
Nancy Sargent, *Choral Director*  
Andrew Elliott, *Pastor*  
Myrna Vallette, *Liturgist*  
Sue & Ken Farkas, *Ushers*  
Lois Stevens, *Greeter*  
Ruth & Troy Tainter, *Facebook, WDEA & Zoom*  
Rev. John A. Lacey, *March Deacon*

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**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.

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## **The Fast Life**

A Lenten meditation

Fast from judging others; feast on Christ dwelling in them.

Fast from fear of illness; feast on the healing power of God.

Fast from words that pollute; feast on speech that purifies.

Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger; feast on patience.

Fast from pessimism; feast on hope.

Fast from negatives; feast on encouragement.

Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.

Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion.

Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.

Fast from gossip; feast on purposeful silence.

Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that sustains.

Fast from anxiety; feast on faith.

*- Author Unknown*



*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, **for God loves a cheerful giver.***

*2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)*

**Your offering helps rebuild from disaster, feed the hungry, provide clean water to the thirsty, empower the oppressed, and restore hope.**

Orfelina works with families in the northern regions of Honduras to help them understand how to transform their families and communities through agriculture. The list of things she does is mindboggling: Checking on local farmers' harvest. Monitoring water projects. Teaching the women in the community how to prepare more nutritious meals for their families. Chatting up community leaders for support. Running workshops for things like creating organic fertilizers and sprays.

But Orfelina doesn't just work with farmers and their families, she supports and encourages them. Visiting them in their homes. Bringing God's light to everyone she meets. And all of this is made possible through your giving to One Great Hour of Sharing. Because of your giving, projects like these and thousands more around the world are changing lives. Transforming communities. And spreading God's light. Be the Light. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.

**One Great  
HOUR  
OF SHARING**



**First Church will accept gifts to this special mission offering through the month of March.**

**THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 126 MEALS ON FEBRUARY 25.**

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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