



First Congregational Church UCC

PO Box 12, 2 Church Street

Ellsworth, Maine 04605

207-667-8321 office@ellsworthucc.org

ellsworthucc.org facebook.com/fccellsworth

*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 IN LENT

March 15, 2026

10 a.m.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

*Irish Hymn
Salley Gardens
Londonderry Air*

Wagner
trad. Welsh
trad. Irish

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

O worship the Lord

McCutchan

*O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
serve him with gladness all the earth.*

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

All: For the One who meets us here is the Savior of the world. Let us worship the living Christ!

One: Come, people of God, we gather in a world that often feels shadowed and uncertain.

All: Yet we come seeking the light of Christ, the one who opens our eyes and our hearts.

One: Jesus meets us where we are, in our questions, our doubts, and even in our blindness.

All: And through grace, Christ leads us into new sight and new life.

One: The light of God is among us today.

All: Let us open our eyes, our hearts, and our spirits. Let us worship the One who brings light to the world. Amen.

*HYMN

Open my eyes, that I may see

586

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

Gracious and loving God, you are the light that shines in our darkness. As we gather for worship, open our eyes to your presence, open our hearts to your grace, and guide us in the way of Christ. Center our minds and spirits so that all we do today may draw us closer to you and to one another. Amen.

SPECIAL MOMENTS

Choir

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

Peace Is Our Prayer

Shackley

Lord, grant us peace in this troubled day,
Where hearts are fearful and faith gives way.
Help us to trust in your firm control;
Peace is our prayer, true peace our goal.
The hearts of rulers are in your hand
To turn and guide at your command.
Lord, lead them into the paths of right,
And let the nations see your light.
Lord, please grant to us peace in our time, peace in our world,
In our hearts and minds. And Lord, we cast all our cares upon you
Knowing your promise is true: A day will come when swords
Shall be laid down, and the Prince of Peace shall wear the only crown.
All souls oppressed will find release when war and hate
Forever and ever melt into peace.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Holy and gracious God, as we turn to your Word, open the eyes of our hearts. Remove anything that keeps us from seeing your truth clearly. By your Spirit, give us wisdom and understanding, so that what we hear today may not only reach our ears, but take root in our lives. Help us to see your light, follow your voice, and walk more faithfully in the way of Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Gospel

John 9:1-41

pew Bible p.89 NT

SERMON

Opening Our Eyes on the Journey

Seeing Jesus changes everything.

*HYMN

Amazing grace!

546

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays:

Barbara, Nancy, Tim, Marianne, Jean

Choral Response

Almighty Father

Mendelssohn

Almighty Father, hear our prayer, and bless all souls that wait upon thee.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY

Ag Cristol an Siol

O’Riada

*DOXOLOGY

46

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN

Take my life

609

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

An Irish Blessing

Mansfield

O Worship the Lord, text Psalm 96:9, tune PORTER Robert G. McCutchan (1877-1958) | Public Domain

Peace is our prayer, words & music Larry Shackley © 1998 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

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Almighty Father, words Anonymous, music Felix Mendelssohn 1809-1840 | Public Domain

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

Lynn Hall, *Organist*
Nancy Sargent, *Choral Director*
Andrew Elliott, *Pastor*
Cathy Engel, *Liturgist*
Sue & Peter Bedard, *Ushers*
Lois Stevens, *Greeter*
Ruth & Troy Tainter, *Facebook, WDEA & Zoom*
Rev. John A. Lacey, *March 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 140 MEALS ON MARCH 10.

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.)



*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

 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

First Church will accept gifts to this special mission offering through the month of March. Please use a pew envelope and write OGHS in the memo.



YOU ARE INVITED!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH, UCC
2 CHURCH ST | ELLSWORTH



COMMUNITY SUPPER

MARCH 28, 2026

5-6:30 PM

ROAST PORK DINNER

STUFFING

GRAVY

GREEN BEANS

GLAZED CARROTS

MASHED POTATOES

CAESAR SALAD

ROLLS

COFFEE, TEA & LEMONADE

HOMEMADE PIES

\$12 PER PERSON

\$25 PER FAMILY (2 ADULTS, 2 CHILDREN)

CHURCH BUILDING IS HANDICAP
ACCESSIBLE

Questions? Call Lois (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