



## 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.*

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*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 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

**March 22 2026**

**10 a.m.**

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

*Surely He Died on Calvary*

arr. Page

*What Wondrous Love is This*

arr. Page

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT *Just as I am, without one plea*

Bradbury

*Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,*

*And that thou bid'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come.*

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: We gather today from many places in life, some carrying joy, some carrying grief, some carrying questions.

**All: Yet we come seeking the One who calls us by name.**

One: When hope feels buried and the stone seems too heavy to move,

**All: Jesus still stands at the tomb and calls life out of death.**

One: When the world tells us that the story is finished,

**All: Christ reminds us that God is still writing new life.**

One: Come, people of God. Come with your doubts, your fears, and your hopes.

**All: For we worship the One who is the resurrection and the life. Let us worship God.**

\*HYMN

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah*

622

\*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

**Loving God, we gather today with open hearts, seeking your presence. Quiet our minds, renew our spirits, and remind us that you are always bringing life and hope. Open us to your word and your love. Amen.**

SPECIAL MOMENTS

Amber Elliott

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

*Hymn of Promise*

Sleeth

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.  
There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.  
In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Living God, as we come to your Word today, open our hearts and our minds. Quiet the distractions around us and within us, so that we may truly hear what you are speaking to us. By your Holy Spirit, help us to see more clearly, to listen more deeply, and to understand the life and hope you reveal through Jesus. May your Word guide us, challenge us, and encourage us, so that we may follow more faithfully wherever you lead. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Gospel

John 11:1-45

pew Bible p.91 NT

SERMON

**Four Days Late: Hope at the Tomb**

\*HYMN

*I am thine, O Lord*

601

## MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Barbara, John, Troy

Choral Response *Into my heart* Clarke

Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus;  
Come in today, come in to stay, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY *Give Me Jesus* arr. Walz

\*DOXOLOGY 46

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN *Because He Lives* 562

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Postlude in D* Ryan

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*Just as I am*, words Charlotte Elliott 1835, tune Woodworth William B. Bradbury 1849 | Public Domain

*Into my heart*, words & music Harry D. Clarke 1924 | Public Domain

*Hymn of Promise*, words & music Natalie Sleeth © 1986 Hope Publishing Co.  
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**Worship is broadcast live through  
WDEA AM 1370, Facebook, and Zoom.**

Lynn Hall, *Organist*  
Nancy Sargent, *Choral Director*  
Andrew Elliott, *Pastor*  
Chris Wilson, *Liturgist*  
Kara Ibarguen & Brendan Minear, *Ushers*  
Lois Stevens, *Greeter*  
Ruth & Troy Tainter, *Facebook, WDEA & Zoom*  
Rev. John A. Lacey, *March Deacon*

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## 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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**HOLY WEEK BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY.**  
Join us on March 29 for Palm Sunday observance.



### **MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE April 2, 7 p.m.**

Every first Sunday of the month when we celebrate Holy Communion, we remember this night—the night that Jesus shared his last supper with his closest friends.

Following the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, we will close with a Tenebrae Service consisting of hymns and scripture readings pertaining to the last hours of Jesus' earthly life. Our friends from the Ellsworth Falls UCC congregation will share this service with us here at FCC.



When you give to **One Great Hour of Sharing**, you are light for people in need. You offer light when disasters strike, and when chronic conditions threaten families and communities. You are light not just in the immediate future, but also for the long haul. When you give, you restore not only structures, but also transform lives. Your gift ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, light shines.

**Be the light. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.**



[ucc.org/oghs](http://ucc.org/oghs)

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

**DID YOU KNOW?** One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) began in 1949 as an ecumenical, hour-long radio appeal aimed at raising \$1 million for post-war World Relief. Initiated by church leaders, it involved major radio networks and over 75,000 churches across multiple denominations to support global relief. The official "One Great Hour" radio broadcast took place on the Saturday evening before Easter in 1949, featuring celebrities and President Harry Truman, who urged listeners to build a better world.



# YOU ARE INVITED!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH, UCC  
2 CHURCH ST | ELLSWORTH



## COMMUNITY SUPPER

### MARCH 28, 2026

### 5-6:30 PM

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#### ROAST PORK DINNER

STUFFING

GRAVY

GREEN BEANS

GLAZED CARROTS

MASHED POTATOES

CAESAR SALAD

ROLLS

COFFEE, TEA & LEMONADE

HOMEMADE PIES

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\$12 PER PERSON

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

CHURCH BUILDING IS HANDICAP  
ACCESSIBLE

Questions? Call Lois (207) 669-2028

**THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 140 MEALS ON MARCH 18.**

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*