



**First Congregational Church UCC** - Founded 1812  
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Ellsworth, Maine 04605  
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*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.  
Thank you for silencing electronic devices before worship begins.*

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

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**ORDER OF WORSHIP  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER & HOLY COMMUNION**

**May 3, 2026**

**10 a.m.**

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

*There is a Fountain  
Variations on DIX*

arr. Wagner  
Lasky

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

*I come with joy*

Wren

*I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved and free,  
In awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me.*

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: Jesus said, if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again.

**All: We gather in this place to know your presence and your love, now and always.**

One: Jesus said, I am the way, and the truth, and the light. If you know me, you know God.

**All: We pray to know you more deeply, that we may know God more intimately, now and always.**

One: Jesus said, Ask me for anything, and I will do it.

**All: Help us to ask for the right things, Lord Jesus Christ, that we may fulfill your will, now and always.**

One: Jesus said, Believe in me, and “Follow me.”

**All: Help us to worship you fully believing and following—now and always!**

\*HYMN

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

25

\*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

**Holy and Living God, build us into a spiritual house, a gathering of witnesses for the world and in the world to declare your goodness, to follow in your way, and to do the work of your hands, voice, and heart. Renew our spirits as we worship you and bask in your presence. Fill us with your Spirit that we collectively proclaim ourselves as your people, called to the fullness of your glorious and radiant being. Amen.**

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      *People Need the Lord*

arr. Mauldin

Every day they pass me by, I can see it in their eyes:  
Empty people filled with care, headed who knows where?  
On they go through private pain, living fear to fear;  
Laughter hides the silent cries only Jesus hears.  
People need the Lord, people need the Lord.  
At the end of broken dreams, He's the open door.  
People need the Lord, people need the Lord.  
When will we realize people need the Lord?  
We are called to take his light to a world where wrong seems right.  
What could be too great a cost for sharing life with one who's lost?  
Through His love our hearts can feel all the grief they bear.  
They must hear the words of life only we can share.  
People need the Lord, people need the Lord.  
At the end of broken dreams, He's the open door.  
People need the Lord. When will we realize that we must give our lives,  
For people need the Lord.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Redeemer of our lives, we come to you, knowing that we participate in a world often crushed by tyranny and evil. Our hearts are troubled, overwhelmed, and dismayed. At times, we feel helpless and hopeless by the enormity of the problems presenting all around us. We believe the lie of the enemy that there is nothing that we can do or that someone else is the one to do it. May you, Holy and Righteous One, be glorified in the tumbling of walls cemented in evil and fortified by hate. For this, we pray for courage and resolve to do the works needed in this hour. For this, we pray for faith, trust, and hope to believe that the realm of the possible eclipses the narrow places of improbability. For this, we pray for the boldness to pray for what the world needs, and more than our imaginations may hold. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

New Testament  
Gospel

Acts 7:55-60  
John 14:1-4

pew Bible 109 NT  
pew Bible p.95 NT

## SERMON

**Jesus is Your GPS**

Rev. George

## HOLY COMMUNION

\*Hymn *Come, Share the Lord* 408

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread & Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Dedication (unison)

**We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

\*HYMN *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* 261

## MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays:

Michelle, Mary, Sarah, Linda, Danielle

Choral Response *Amen* Robinson

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY *Cry of My Heart* Butler

\*DOXOLOGY

46

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN *I have decided to follow Jesus* 344

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Go Joyfully* Williamson

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*I come with joy*, words Brian Wren 1968 © 1971 Hope Publishing Co. | CCLI License # 11546442 Streaming 20543232  
Music *The Southern Harmony* 1835 harm. by Charles H Webb 1987 © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

*People Need the Lord*, words & music Phill McHugh & Greg Nelson © 1983 River Oaks Music Company  
CCLI License # 11546442 Streaming 20543232 | arr. Russell Mauldin

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Lynn Hall, *Organist & Pianist*

Nancy Sargent, *Choral Director*

Mark Remick, *Liturgist*

Rev. Linette George, *Guest Minister*

Anne Bancroft & Cindy Sargent, *Communion Stewards*

Sue & Mike Fuller, *Ushers*

Lois Stevens, *Greeter*

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

Katharine Schrader, *May Deacon*

**Thank you for sitting in the front half of the sanctuary today.**

**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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We are delighted to welcome the Rev. Linette George as our guest minister today. Linette grew up in Glenburn, Bangor, Maine. She holds three Iron Duchess awards for serving as a football manager and never missing a day of practice or games at John Bapst High School, class of 1983. She is a pianist and vocalist. Linette has a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and American Public Policy from Stanford, and Master of Divinity from Bangor Theological Seminary. She was a paralegal for 30 years before answering the call to ministry. She served the Holden and Dedham UCC congregations for about ten years and is nearing the end of a time of respite. She resides in the family homestead in Glenburn, with her sister, Stacy, and cat, Ella.



During the month of May, we will receive gifts to the **Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering**. This is one of the 5 for 5 special offerings supported by the Maine Conference. The STC Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. Please use a pew envelope and write **STC** in the memo.



**Singer-songwriter GORDON THOMAS WARD will appear in concert here on Saturday, June 20, at 7 p.m.** He is an author and a GRAMMY-balloted, award-winning singer-songwriter with four #1 charted songs and others that have charted

in the US and abroad. Gordon is a storyteller whose songs occupy a space filled with honesty, imagery, and emotion.

Admission is \$15 at the door. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Invite your friends!

**The HYSSONGS will appear in concert on Saturday, June 27 at 6 p.m. after the church's public supper.** Dell, Susan and Richard Hyssong travel full-time as the award-winning Hyssongs. Their energetic ministry combines family vocal harmony, humor and brass instruments (trumpet and trombone) to delight audiences with their Christ-centered message, shared through the powerful medium of music. The family's classical music background, along with their harmony and specific chord structures, lend them a unique sound that has made quite an impact on audiences. The group has been singing together as a family for nearly 30 years.

While the church steeple is being cleaned and repaired, we are not ringing the bell at the beginning of morning worship. Once this project is completed, we will restore this item to the Order of Worship.



**THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 140 MEALS ON APRIL 29.**

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.

*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*