



**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

*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.  
Thank you for silencing electronic devices before worship begins.*

***\*Please stand as you are able.***

---

**ORDER OF WORSHIP  
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**May 10, 2026**

**10 a.m.**

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

*Prelude and fugue in g minor  
O Perfect Love*

Bach  
arr. Hopson

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

*Sometimes Alleluia*

Girard

Sometimes “Alleluia,” sometimes, “Praise the Lord,”  
Some gently singing, our hearts in one accord.

## CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: We gather today, searching, for meaning, for hope, for the presence of God.

**All: We come with hearts open, longing to be known.**

One: The God who made the world is not far from us.

**All: In God, we live and move and have our being.**

One: Jesus says, "I will not leave you alone." Love abides. The Spirit remains.

**All: We are not forgotten. We are not abandoned.**

One: Come, let us worship God.

**All: With gratitude, hope, and enduring love.**

## \*HYMN

## \*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

**Loving and ever-present God, we come with open hearts. You are not far from us; in you we live and move and have our being. Remind us we are not alone; your Spirit abides with us. Where we are weary, renew us. Where we feel unseen, remind us we are known. Shape us to love as you love, with faithfulness and grace. 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

*Sometimes Alleluia*

Girard

*Sometimes “Alleluia,” sometimes, “Praise the Lord,”  
Some gently singing, our hearts in one accord.*

Oh let us lift our voices, look toward the sky and start to sing;

Oh let us now return his love,

Just let our voices ring! *Sometimes Alleluia...*

Oh let us feel his presence, let the sound of praises fill the air;

Oh let us sing the song of Jesus’ love,

To people, everywhere! *Sometimes alleluia...*

Oh let our joy be unconfined, let us sing with freedom unrestrained;

Let’s take this feeling that we feel now,

Outside these walls and let it ring! *Sometimes alleluia...*

Oh let the spirit overflow, as we are filled from head to toe.

We love you, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,

And we want this world to know. *Sometimes alleluia...*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Holy and gracious God, as we hear your Word, open our hearts and minds. Remove what distracts us and draw us near to you. By your Spirit, help us to understand, to receive your truth with humility, and to live it with courage and love. Speak to us now, for we are listening. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

New Testament

Acts 17:22-31

pew Bible 120 NT

Gospel

John 14:15-21

pew Bible p.95 NT

SERMON

**I Will Not Leave You—Love That Stays!**

\*HYMN

*On Eagle’s Wings*

77

## MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Anna, Janine

Choral Response

*Amen*

Danish

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY

*Think About His Love*

Harrah

\*DOXOLOGY

46

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

344

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Festive Voluntary*

Lau

---

*Sometimes Alleluia*, words & music Chuck Girard © 1974 Sea of Glass Music  
CCLI License # 11546442 Streaming 20543232

---

Lynn Hall, *Organist*

Nancy Sargent, *Choral Director*

Martin Vachon, *Liturgist*

Andy Elliott, *Pastor*

Ginny Davis & Donna Shea, *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.

### **THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 115 MEALS ON MAY 6.**

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.



## **Supporting next generation leaders**

Through the Church Assessment, Support, and Advancement (CASA) Program, new and renewing ministries receive grant funding to establish and strengthen transformative faith communities within the United Church of Christ.

One of these grant recipients is the Service Learning Community Fellowship Program at Kailua Christian Church. Their mission to cultivate a loving, Christ-centered community is reflected in their investment in young adults discerning pastoral and social service vocations. By partnering with The Institute for Human Services and offering hands-on, community-centered learning, housing support, and spiritual formation, KCC is developing the next generation of compassionate, justice-oriented Christian leaders.

A participant of the program shared, “This experience has prepared me to pursue ministry with greater intentionality, creativity, and resilience, equipping me to serve diverse communities with both grace and practical leadership.”



Your gifts to Strengthen the Church help support ministries like the Service Learning Community Fellowship Program all across the United States. Thank you for your generosity!

*The Strengthen the Church Offering furthers the work of our Conference and National Ministries as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. The offering is divided between your Conference and the National Ministries.*

*Learn more at [www.ucc.org/stc](http://www.ucc.org/stc)*



**TURKEY SUPPER, Saturday, May 23. Serving 5-6:30 p.m.** Please join us for this public supper, a turkey meal with all the trimmings. \$12 per person or \$25 per family (2 adults, 2 young children). We need volunteers to set up, cook, serve, wash dishes, and bake pies. Contact Lois Stevens ASAP to let her know how you can help.



**Gouldsboro 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.

*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*