



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
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

May 17, 2026

10 a.m.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
Come, Thou Almighty King*

arr. Page
arr. Page

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT *Where the Spirit of the Lord Is*

Adams

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is peace.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is love.

There is comfort in life's darkest hour, there is light and life,

There is help and power in the Spirit of the Lord.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: People of God, we gather in the space between promise and fulfillment, waiting with hope for the movement of the Spirit.

All: We come as witnesses in waiting, trusting that God is still at work among us.

One: Jesus prayed for His disciples, that they would be one, protected in love and strengthened in faith.

All: We gather held together by that same prayer and surrounded by that same grace.

One: Though we do not always know what comes next, God calls us to remain faithful, prayerful, and hopeful.

All: We lift our hearts to God, who meets us in the waiting and fills us with hope. Let us worship the risen Christ, who calls us, prays for us, and sends us into the world in love.

*HYMN

There's Something About That Name

115

(sing twice)

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

Loving God, in times of waiting, remind us that we are never alone. Hold us together in Your love, strengthen us through prayer, and fill us with hope through Your Spirit. Help us to live as faithful witnesses to Your grace and peace. Guide our worship today and prepare our hearts to follow Christ faithfully. 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.

ANTHEM

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Gracious God, open our hearts and minds to hear Your Word today. In moments of waiting and uncertainty, help us listen for Your voice and trust Your presence among us. Through the power of Your Spirit, give us wisdom, courage, and hope, that we may live as faithful witnesses to Christ in all we do. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

New Testament
Gospel

Acts 1:6-14
John 17:1-11

pew Bible 102 NT
pew Bible p.97 NT

SERMON **Witnesses in Waiting, the Prayer that Holds Us**

*HYMN *The Old Rugged Cross* 548

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Lee, Michael, Bob, Lynn

Choral Response

Amen

Dresden

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY	<i>Come Holy Spirit</i>	Foreman
*DOXOLOGY		46
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION		
*HYMN	<i>They'll Know We Are Christians</i>	494
*BENEDICTION		
POSTLUDE	<i>He is King of Kings</i>	Wagner

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Lynn Hall, *Organist*
Nancy Sargent, *Choral Director*
Brendan Minear, *Liturgist*
Andy Elliott, *Pastor*
Kara, Maya & Leo Ibarguen and Brendan Minear, *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 120 MEALS ON MAY 13.

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.

A Metaphor for Change



Spring is a metaphor for change.

Some changes we eagerly await, and some we abhor.

Some changes we plan and others arrive uninvited.

To all these changes we ask the gift of Your perspective beckoning us to expectation, hope, and rebirth.

May the sunlight and the rain be reminders that You are at work renewing the earth. As a God of renewal, You are ever at work in our lives, too.

Open our eyes and lives to the needed changes in our lives this Spring.

Awaken us to new life and perspective, for we pray in Jesus' name.

- Found on: <https://www.chausa.org/prayers/prayer-library/general-prayers-and-prayer-services/seasonal-and-holidays/spring-prayer>



Creating ministerial excellence

Your gifts to Strengthen the Church help support the work of the Ministerial Excellence, Support, and Authorization (MESA) team at the National Ministries of the United Church of Christ. This team supports the critical implementation of denominational polity for authorized ministry, especially equipping the Committees on Ministry that determine authorization of those persons who hold or are pursuing ministerial standing.

What does this mean?

In 2025, the MESA team hosted 23 Zoom trainings for Committees on Ministry (COMs) on the following topics, including:

- COM orientations for new and continuing COM members, particularly in how to offer hospitality to ministers and Members in Discernment;

- Specialized work on Fitness Reviews;
- The Endorsement Process for professional and governmental chaplaincy;
- Among other one-off trainings

In addition, MESA hosted

- Boundary Awareness Trainings focused on retired clergy and ministers serving in specialized settings such as hospital or university chaplaincy;
- Specialized learning for Members in Discernment;
- Regularly recurring online affinity groups for Campus Chaplains, Spiritual Support for Members in Discernment, Military Chaplains, Members in Discernment in Cross-Cultural Contexts, and VA chaplains;
- Targeted trainings with Conference staff focused on the search and call process, ongoing resource development, and working with ecumenically ordained ministers.

Learn more at www.ucc.org/mesa. Your gifts to Strengthen the Church build up strong leaders across our church. 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



TURKEY SUPPER, This 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.



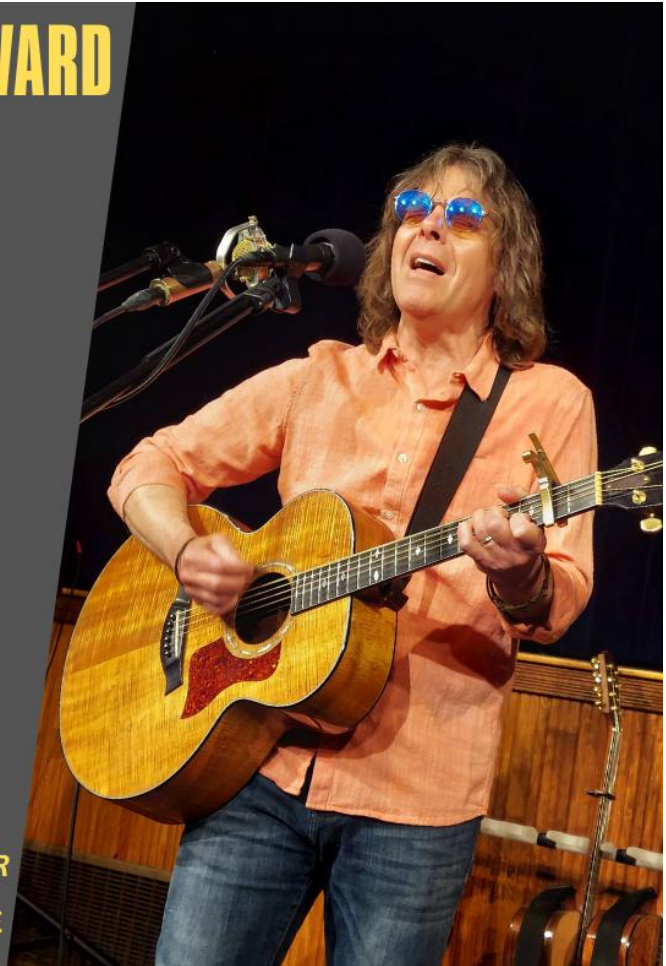
GORDON THOMAS WARD IN CONCERT

JUNE 20, 7:00 P.M.

**ELLSWORTH
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH**

**2 CHURCH STREET
ELLSWORTH, ME**

*"GORDON THOMAS WARD IS
SETTING THE GOLD STANDARD
FOR SINGER/SONGWriters FOR
GENERATIONS TO COME."
~ JIMMY RAE, SKOPE MAGAZINE*



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