



**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.*

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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  
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**July 12, 2026**

**10 a.m.**

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ORGAN INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: Come, people of God, for the Lord is always sending life. Like rain upon the earth and seed scattered in the field, God's grace is poured out generously.

**All: We come with open hearts, ready to receive God's grace and be renewed.**

One: God calls us to set aside the distractions that crowd our lives and make room for hope, peace, and love to grow within us.

**All: Prepare our hearts, O God, that your Word may take deep root and bear good fruit.**

One: Let us worship the One whose promises are faithful, whose mercy is new every morning, and whose Spirit is always at work among us.

**All: With grateful hearts and expectant spirits, let us worship God! Amen.**

\*HYMN

*For the beauty of the earth*

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\*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

**Gracious and loving God, we thank you for gathering us in your presence today. As you send rain to nourish the earth and scatter the seeds of your Word with generous love, open our hearts to receive all that you have for us. Soften the places that have grown hard, remove the distractions that keep us from hearing your voice, and help your love take root within us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may bear the fruit of your kingdom in our lives. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. 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.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Gracious God, as we hear your Word today, open our hearts and minds to your presence. Remove the distractions that keep us from hearing your voice, and prepare us to receive the seeds of your truth with faith and joy. May your Spirit help your Word take root within us, growing into lives that reflect your love and bear fruit for your kingdom. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament	Isaiah 55:10-13	pew Bible p.645 OT
Gospel	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	pew Bible p.12 NT

### SERMON

#### **God Is Always Sending Life**

The question is whether we are making room for it to grow.

### \*HYMN

*Here I Am, Lord*

452

### MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays& Anniversaries:

Nancy Jay, Lyle, Becky & Andy

Organ Response

### OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

### OFFERTORY

### \*DOXOLOGY

46

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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Lynn Hall, *Organist*

Andy Elliott, *Pastor*

Mark Remick, *Liturgist*

Myrna Vallette & Cindy Sargent, *Ushers*

Lois Stevens, *Greeter*

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

Anne Bancroft, *July Deacon*

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

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

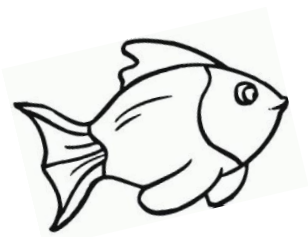
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## **VISITORS, GUESTS, AND SEEKERS ARE WELCOME**

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.

# Baked Haddock Supper

**Saturday, July 25, 2026**  
**Serving 5:00 to 6:30 pm**



*Baked haddock, mashed potatoes, carrots,  
green beans, salad, rolls, homemade pies and  
beverages (coffee, tea, lemonade)*

**\$12 per person**  
**\$25 per family (2 adults, 2 children)**

*Take-out available*  
*Handicap accessible at the State Street entrance*  
*For more info, call Lois at 207-669-2028*

The 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*