

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Ellsworth, Maine



Founded in 1812

*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
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HYMN SING SUNDAY**



July 26, 2026

10 a.m.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

Monteux musicians

WELCOME

ORGAN INTROIT

I See the Morning Breakin’

Appalachian hymn

***HYMN**

Abide with me (vs 1, 3, 5)

636

PRAYER HYMN

Be thou my vision

595

Ginny Davis: *Be thou my vision* has roots that stretch back over 1,500 years. The hymn is a simple but powerful prayer, asking God to be our vision, our wisdom, our guide, and our greatest treasure. As we sing, may these words remind us to keep Christ at the center of our hearts and our lives.

Myrna Vallette: After reflecting on the resurrection story in the Gospel of John, C. Austin Miles wrote *In the Garden* in 1912. As he imagined Mary Magdalene meeting the risen Christ in the garden on Easter morning, he wrote this hymn as a reminder that Jesus still meets us personally in our everyday lives. As we sing, may we be reminded that Christ walks with us, speaks to us, and is always near.

Myrna Vallette: In 1985, John Ylvisaker wrote the contemporary hymn *I was there to hear your borning cry*. It reflects on God's faithful presence throughout every stage of our lives—from birth to old age—and reminds us that God is always calling us by name. As we sing these words, may we hear God's promise that we are never alone and that God's love walks with us every step of the journey

Kara Ibarguen: Drawing inspiration from Psalm 91 and Isaiah 40, Father Michael Joncas wrote *On Eagle's Wings* in 1979. He composed it as a message of comfort and hope, reminding us that God is our refuge and strength in every season of life. As we sing, may these familiar words reassure us that, whatever we face, God is always there to lift us up and carry us safely in God's care.

HYMN *Lift up your heads, O mighty gates* 129

Katharine Schrader: *Lift up your heads* is a hymn of joyful invitation. Rather than focusing on one moment in Scripture or one season of life, it calls God's people together to worship with gratitude, hope, and praise. It reminds us that every voice matters in the song of faith. As we sing, let's do just that—lifting our voices together in thanksgiving for God's goodness and love.

HYMNS *Joyful, joyful, we adore thee* (vs 1 & 4) 2
Mine eyes have seen the glory 705
How Great Thou Art 33

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays:

Caleb, Liz, Emily, Greg, Leita, Kristen, Doris

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

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.

Organ Response *Jesus, Remember Me* Berthier

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

SPECIAL MUSIC Monteux musicians

*DOXOLOGY 46

*DEDICATION

HYMN *The Old Rugged Cross* 548

*HYMN *It Is Well with My Soul* 561

Amber Elliott: *It Is Well with My Soul* has one of the most moving stories behind any hymn. Horatio Spafford wrote it in 1873 after the tragic loss of his four daughters in a shipwreck while crossing the Atlantic. As his own ship passed near the place where they had died, he penned the words, 'It is well with my soul.' This hymn is not a song that denies sorrow—it is a testimony that even in life's deepest grief, God's peace can sustain us. As we close our hymn sing today, may these words become our own prayer of trust and hope.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Monteux musicians

Alison Hoffman & Jonathan Miller, *Monteux Festival students*

Lynn Hall, *Organist*

Andy Elliott, *Pastor*

Myrna Vallette, *Liturgist*

Cindy Sargent & Donna Shea, *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.**

VISITORS, GUESTS, AND SEEKERS ARE WELCOME

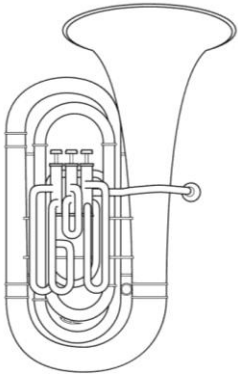
We pray that your experience of worship enriches and sustains you in the week ahead. If you are visiting, we hope you will introduce yourself to those around you and to the Pastor. Please join us for coffee after the service. If you have any questions, please ask an usher.



MONTEUX
SCHOOL & MUSIC FESTIVAL



ALLISON HOFFMAN is a French horn player and teacher based in Tallahassee, Florida. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in performance at Florida State University, having previously earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Illinois State University. Allison has been recognized for both academic and musical excellence through numerous honors, including talent scholarships from both FSU and ISU, as well as the Presser Undergraduate Scholarship. An avid freelancer, she regularly performs as a substitute musician with professional ensembles such as the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, Panama City Symphony Orchestra, Heartland Festival Orchestra, and Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra. A devoted pit musician, she has played in numerous professional and amateur musical, opera, and ballet productions. She is an active soloist and recently advanced to the finals of the 2026 Ruth Kern Young Artists Competition. Allison previously served as a K–5 general music and 6–8 choir director in Lincoln, Illinois, while maintaining a private studio. She has led masterclasses for beginning and intermediate horn students in and around the Bloomington–Normal area. Allison serves as a graduate teaching assistant for the horn studio at FSU, where she teaches undergraduate horn students and assists with studio administration.



JONATHAN MILLER is a tuba player from St. Petersburg, Florida, currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in tuba performance at the Eastman School of Music under Justin Benavidez. Prior to Eastman he graduated from the Interlochen Arts Academy where he studied under Thomas Riccobono. Jonathan is an avid arranger having been commissioned to arrange pieces for varying instrumentation and has had the honor to lead the Eastman Tuba and Euphonium ensemble in several performances of his arrangements. Jonathan is a member of the S.E. Shires Rising Artists program. He has been recognized by various organizations including the NAACP and the Omega Psi Phi fraternity. While at Eastman Jonathan has been named a YoungArts competition winner with distinction as well as the winner of the 2026 North East Regional Tuba Euphonium Conference (NERTEC) student solo competition. Jonathan was also named a finalist for the mock orchestra and artist solo competitions at NERTEC 2026. Jonathan is an active member of the community and is the Vice President of Communications of the Black Students Union at Eastman. Jonathan's previous teachers include Gabriel Rice and Harold Van Schaik.

**It is our great pleasure to welcome these fine musicians
to enrich our worship this morning.**



CHURCH FAIR



Saturday, August 1, 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The Busy Bodies invite everyone to our Church Fair. We will offer our usual knitted and crocheted items, other crafts, books, delicious food, fudge, antiques and attic treasures.

We would appreciate donations of baked goods: pies, cookies, bread and more. Crafts sell well and your hand-worked donations can be left at the church. Books and puzzles are welcomed. We really appreciate all the congregation does each year to help us out with our fairs.

Please bring baked goods to the church on Friday afternoon, July 31, from 12-2 p.m. Or bring them in Saturday morning as soon as you can.

Do you need more information? Contact Sue Fuller (610-1626), or Louise Emerson (667-4414).

We can't wait to see you at the fair!

THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 126 MEALS ON JULY 22.

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.**, 207-667-8321, 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



First Congregational Church UCC – Founded 1812
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