

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
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY COMMUNION**

August 2, 2026

10 a.m.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

*Monkland
Abide with Me*

arr. Lasky
arr. Wagner

WELCOME

ORGAN INTROIT

Let There Be Praise

Tunney

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: Come, all who have wrestled through the night and all who arrive
carrying burdens too heavy to bear.

All: We come seeking the presence of the God who never lets us go.

One: Bring your hopes, your fears, your joys, and your doubts. Bring what
you have, trusting that God is enough.

**All: We offer ourselves to the One who blesses, transforms, and
provides.**

One: Come, let us worship the God who meets us in our struggles and fills
us with grace beyond measure.

All: Let us worship God with grateful hearts. Amen.

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

Gracious God, we come before You with open hearts. Meet us in our struggles, strengthen our faith, and remind us that what we place in Your hands is always enough. Transform us by Your love, nourish us through Your Word, and send us into the world to share Your grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SOLO

I Will Wait for You

Getty

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Holy God, as we read and proclaim Your Word, open our hearts and minds to Your Spirit. Help us to hear Your voice, trust Your presence in every struggle, and recognize Your abundance in every blessing. Transform us through Your living Word, that we may faithfully follow Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament

Genesis 32:22-31

pew Bible p.28 OT

Gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

pew Bible p.14 NT

SERMON

**Refusing to Walk Away Empty:
Divine Initiative in Human Scarcity**

HOLY COMMUNION

*Hymn

One bread, one body

393

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread & Cup



Prayer of Thanksgiving & Dedication (unison)

Gracious God, we thank You for meeting us at this table with grace, love, and abundant mercy. You have nourished us with Christ's presence and reminded us that Your blessings are always enough. As we leave this place, help us to carry Your love into the world, to share generously what we have received, and to trust You with all that lies ahead. May our lives reflect the hope, peace, and compassion of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

Weave (sing twice)

495

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Matt, Dylan, Jeanne, Mike

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

Praise the Name of Jesus

Hicks

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY

Change My Heart, O God

Espinosa

*DOXOLOGY

46

*DEDICATION

*HYMN

We are walking

442

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Nettleton

arr. Lasky

Lynn Hall, *Organist*

Andy Elliott, *Pastor*

Myrna Vallette, *Liturgist*

Nancy Sargent, *Soloist*

Brendan Minear & Cindy Sargent, *Communion Stewards*

Cindy Sargent & Donna Shea, *Ushers*

Lois Stevens, *Greeter*

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

Rev. John A. Lacey, *August 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.

**QUARTERLY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
AFTER WORSHIP TODAY**

NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 SPECIAL OUTDOOR SERVICE ON THE PORCH/LAWN



Maine summer is short; we need to enjoy the weather and nice times as much as possible. Please bring your lawn chair or blanket and join us for worship on the front steps and lawn. Of course, if the weather does not cooperate, we will be in the Sanctuary.

THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 120 MEALS ON JULY 29.

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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