



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
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

August 9, 2026

10 a.m.

PRELUDE

My Jesus, I Love Thee
Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

arr. Nix
arr. Line

WELCOME

PIANO INTROIT

Seek Ye First

Lafferty

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: Come, people of God. Christ calls us beyond what is familiar and into the adventure of faith.

All: We come, trusting that God is already waiting to meet us.

One: The winds may shift, and the path ahead may be unknown, but God's presence never leaves us.

All: We come with open hearts, ready to follow where Christ leads.

One: Today we gather beneath the beauty of God's creation, reminded that the whole earth proclaims God's glory.

All: We rejoice in the gift of this day and the grace that surrounds us.

One: Christ's invitation is always larger than our fears, wider than our comfort, and deeper than our understanding.

All: With joy, hope, and expectant hearts, let us worship the God whose invitation is always bigger than the boat. Amen.

*HYMN

Morning has broken

53

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

Gracious and loving God, thank You for gathering us together in this beautiful place. Open our hearts to Your presence, quiet our distractions, and give us the courage to follow wherever Christ leads. May our worship bring You joy, strengthen our faith, and remind us that Your invitation is always greater than our fears. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL MOMENTS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

God of love, quiet our hearts and open our minds as we hear Your Word today. Help us to listen with curiosity, trust with courage, and discover what You are inviting us to become. May these ancient stories speak new life into us, and may Your Spirit lead us closer to Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament
Gospel

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Matthew 14:22-33

pew Bible p.31 OT
pew Bible p.14 NT

SERMON

The Invitation Is Bigger Than the Boat

*HYMN

Standing in the Need of Prayer

579

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Scotty, Jane

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.

Piano Response

Amen

Ramsey

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY

Cry of My Heart

Butler

*DOXOLOGY

46

*DEDICATION

*HYMN

Here I Am, Lord

452

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

arr. Nix

Lynn Hall, *Pianist*
Andy Elliott, *Pastor*
Tim Carter, *Liturgist*
Sue & Mike Fuller, *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.

THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 120 MEALS ON AUGUST 5.

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.



POT ROAST SUPPER – Saturday, August 22,
serving 5-6:30 p.m. Beef pot roast, mashed potatoes,
carrots, green beans, salad, rolls, homemade pies, coffee, tea,
and lemonade. \$12 per person, \$25 per family (2 adults, 2 young children).

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