



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
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

August 16, 2026

10 a.m.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

Sarum plainsong

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: We come from different places, carrying different stories.

All: Yet God gathers us together in grace.

One: Where we see barriers, God sees possibilities.

All: Where we draw lines, God opens a way.

One: There is room here for the hopeful, the hurting, the certain, and the searching.

All: There is room for all of us in the love of God.

One: Come, let us worship the God whose mercy is wider than we imagined.

All: Let us worship together with open hearts. Amen.

*HYMN

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

4

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

Gracious God, gather us into your presence and open our hearts to your boundless love. Break down the barriers we have built, widen our vision, and remind us that your grace reaches farther than we can imagine. May we worship with open hearts and leave ready to share that grace with others. Amen.

SPECIAL MOMENTS

SPECIAL MUSIC

JLY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

God of wisdom and grace, open our hearts as your Word is read. Help us hear beyond what is familiar, see beyond the boundaries we have created, and discover where your Spirit is leading us. May these ancient words become a living word for us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament

Genesis 45:1-15

pew Bible p.39 OT

Gospel

Matthew 15:10-28

pew Bible p.14 NT

SERMON **Grace Was Never Meant to Stay Inside the Lines**

*HYMN

Have thine own way, Lord!

588

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Charlie, Marshall, Andy, Amber & Andy

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.

Response

Amen

anon.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

46

*DEDICATION

*HYMN

I am thine, O Lord

601

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

JLY, *Guest Musicians*

Lynn Hall, *Pianist*

Andy Elliott, *Pastor*

Mark Remick, *Liturgist*

Ginny Davis & Katharine Schrader, *Ushers*

Lois Stevens, *Greeter*

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

Rev. John A. Lacey, *August Deacon*

We welcome back JLY (Jesus Loves You) to our worship this morning. It's a pleasure to see Laura & David McIntyre again.

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

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

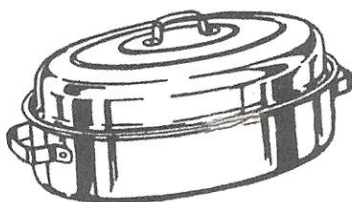
VISITORS, GUESTS, AND SEEKERS ARE WELCOME

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.

Pot Roast Supper

Saturday, August 22, 2026

Serving 5:00 to 6:30 pm



*Beef pot roast, mashed potatoes, carrots,
green beans, salad, rolls, homemade pies,
and beverages (coffee, tea, lemonade)*

\$12 per person

\$25 per family (2 adults, 2 children)

Great food ~ Great company ~ Great fun

Take-out available

Handicap accessible at the State Street entrance

For more info, call Lois at 207-669-2028

THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 126 MEALS ON AUGUST 11.

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