



First Congregational Church UCC – Founded 1812

PO Box 12, 2 Church Street

Ellsworth, Maine 04605

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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
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

August 23, 2026

10 a.m.

PRELUDE

*Fanfare in c minor
Meditation on Joy*

Helman
arr. Parker

WELCOME

INTROIT

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Schmolck

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Psalms 138

One: I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart.

All: I will praise your name for your unfailing love and your faithfulness.

One: When I called you, you answered me, you greatly emboldened me.

All: May all the kings of the earth praise you, Lord!

One: May they sing of the ways of the Lord, for the glory of the Lord is great.

All: Though the Lord is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly.

One: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life.

All: Your love, Lord, endures forever!

*HYMN

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

2

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

As we gather before you, Lord, we do so with grateful hearts. Thankful for your unfailing love and your mercies that are new everyday. Open our hearts Holy Spirit, to receive your love and mercy and all that you have to minister to us here today. Open our hands, that we might extend your love to those we encounter throughout the week. In Jesus name we pray, Amen

CHILDREN'S TIME FOR ALL AGES

Hidden Inside

SPECIAL MUSIC

When Peace Like a River

arr. Althouse

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Thank you Lord for these ancient words that still ring true today. Holy Spirit, counsel us in divine wisdom, that we may understand these words. Guide us, that we may apply these words to our lives, walking in your ways, living in your truth, and glorifying your name, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament	Exodus 1:22-2:10	pew Bible p.46 OT
Epistle	Romans 12:3-8	pew Bible p.141 NT
Gospel	Matthew 16:13-20	pew Bible p.15 NT

SERMON	Divine Destiny	Rev. McDonald
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*HYMN	<i>How Great Thou Art</i>	33
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MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Jessica, Tucker, MacKinlee, Phil & Mary

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	<i>Amen</i>	Pershichetti
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OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY	<i>My Life Is in You, Lord</i>	Gardner
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*DOXOLOGY		46
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*DEDICATION

*HYMN	<i>To God be the glory</i>	72
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*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Faithfulness

arr. Wagner

Lynn Hall, *Organist & Flautist*

Rev. Cassandra McDonald, *Guest Minister*

Cathy Engel, *Liturgist*

Nancy Sargent, *Pianist*

Sue & Ken Farkas, *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.



While the church steeple is being cleaned and repaired, we are not ringing the bell at the beginning of morning worship. Once this project is completed, we will restore this item to the Order of Worship.

THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 120 MEALS ON AUGUST 19.

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