



First Congregational Church UCC – Founded 1812
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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
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

September 6, 2026

10 a.m.

PRELUDE

JLY

WELCOME

INTROIT

God is Here! As We Your Peoples Meet

Taylor

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

from Psalm 119

One: Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end.

All: Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart.

One: Turn my heart towards your statutes and not toward selfish gain.

All: Turn my eyes away from worthless things. Preserve my life according to your word.

One: How I long for your laws!

All: In your righteousness, preserve my life!

*HYMN

Just as I am

339

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

Thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to gather here today as your body. Let us not take things for granted—for we know many brothers and sisters around the globe are prohibited from doing so! Help us center our hearts and minds on you this morning. Amen

SPECIAL MUSIC

JLY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

As we prepare to receive your word, Lord, we ask the Holy Spirit to come, and grant to us understanding, wisdom and discernment. Help us to understand your word as well as how to apply it to our lives, that we may live as your faithful witnesses and successfully complete the work you have given us to do. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament

Exodus 12:1-14

pew Bible p.54 OT

Epistle

Romans 13:8-14

pew Bible p.142 NT

SERMON

Love Well

Rev. McDonald

*HYMN

O Love that wilt not let me go

540

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Vicki, Sarah

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

Carter

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY

JLY

*DOXOLOGY

46

*DEDICATION

*HYMN

Love divine, all loves excelling

517

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

JLY

JLY, *Guest Musicians*
Lynn Hall, *Organist*
Anne Bancroft, *Liturgist*
Rev. Cassandra McDonald, *Guest Minister*
Ginny Davis & Cindy Sargent, *Ushers*
Lois Stevens, *Greeter*
Ruth & Troy Tainter, *Facebook, WDEA & Zoom*
Cindy Sargent, *September Deacon*

We welcome JLY (Jesus Loves You) as our musical guests 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.



*Walk in love, as Christ loved us
Ephesians 5:2*

Advocating for Change

In 1999, General Synod affirmed four Special Mission Offerings for the United Church of Christ. Out of the four, the Neighbors in Need offering was highlighted as the offering for justice and compassion. The offering was tasked to help the church “advocate for a society where all people have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives.”

Today, this legacy continues as we follow the mandate for the offering to create justice not only through direct aid, but also through advocating for change. These advocacy efforts take place in partnership with the Washington, D.C. Office of Public Policy and Advocacy, the Education for Faithful Action Team, and recipients of the Neighbors in Need grants. Together, folks across the UCC work together to affect policy change guided by our faith.

When you give to Neighbors in Need, you make sure the United Church of Christ continues to be a leader for justice. Two-thirds of the offering supports justice projects across the church, and one-third supports the Council for American Indian Ministries.

Thank you for your gifts!

There is an inherent connection between the Gospel call to respond to the hungry – the thirsty, the stranger, those in prison, and those who are sick – and the policy decisions that determine funding for issues such as school meal programs, global peacebuilding programs, standards for clean air, sentencing for nonviolent offenders, and health care access for all. Advocacy is essential to participating in God’s mission in the world.

-From Building A Just World For All: A Toolkit For Faithful Advocacy

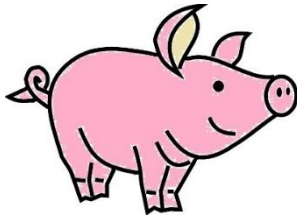
www.ucc.org/nin  UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

First Church will accept gifts to the NIN Offering through the month of September. Please use a pew envelope and write NIN in the memo.

Roast Pork Supper

Saturday, June 27, 2026

Serving 5:00 to 6:30 pm



Roast pork, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, green beans, salad, rolls, homemade pies, and beverages (coffee, tea, lemonade)

\$12 per person

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

We need volunteers to set up, cook, serve, wash dishes, and bake pies. Please contact Lois Stevens immediately about the ways you can help.

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 SEPTEMBER 2.

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