



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

September 20, 2026

10 a.m.

PRELUDE

*Delight in the Lord
Spirit*

Logan
Manley

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT *We Have Come into His House*

Ballinger

We have come into his house and gathered in his name to worship him,
Christ the Lord. Let's forget about ourselves and magnify the Lord and
worship him, Christ the Lord.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: Come, all who are weary from trying to prove your worth.

All: We come to receive grace that cannot be earned.

One: Come, whether you arrived early or are just finding your way.

All: God's generosity is greater than our fear.

One: Grace is not a paycheck. Love is not something we earn.

All: We come with open hearts, ready to receive and ready to worship!

One: Let us worship our generous and gracious God!

*HYMN

Come, Christians, join to sing

90

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

Generous God, gather us into your presence and quiet the voices that tell us we must earn your love. Free us from comparing, counting, and keeping score. Open our hearts to the abundance of your grace, and teach us to celebrate your goodness wherever it appears. Feed us with what we need for today, and shape us into people who share your generosity with the world . Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Grace

Hamlin

Lord, as I seek your guidance for the day,

I find my thoughts unyielding, confusion crowds my way;

But then when I bow to you, the challenges you guide me through,

Your promises are ever new, I claim them for today.

Your will cannot lead me where your grace will not keep me,

Your hand will protect me. I rest in your care.

Your eyes will watch over me, your love will forgive me,

And when I am faltering, I still will find you there.

Each new day's design is charted by your hand

And graciously revealed as I seek your Master plan.

Keep my footsteps faithful when from you I go.

Return me to the joy that your blessings can bestow.

Your will cannot lead me...

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Gracious God, open our hearts and minds to your Word. Quiet the voices of comparison and fear, and help us hear the promise of your abundant grace. May these scriptures challenge us, encourage us, and remind us that your love is freely given to all. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament

Exodus 16:2-15

pew Bible p.58 OT

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

pew Bible p.19 NT

SERMON **God's Generosity Isn't a Wage. Grace Is Not a Paycheck!**

*HYMN

Amazing grace!

546

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Ben, Leah

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.

Choral Response *Lord, listen to your children*

305

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord send your spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying,

send us love, send us power, send us grace.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY

Open Our Eyes

Cull

*DOXOLOGY		46
*DEDICATION		
*HYMN	<i>Let all things now living</i>	717
*BENEDICTION		
POSTLUDE	<i>Go Forth in Peace</i>	Turner

We Have Come Into His House, words & music Bruce Ballinger © 1976 Sound III Inc
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Grace, words & music by Carolyn Hamlin, ©1995 Purifoy Publishing Company
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Lord, listen to your children, words & music Ken Medema © 1973 Hope Publishing Co.
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Lynn Hall, *Organist*
Nancy Sargent, *Choral Director*
Tim Carter, *Liturgist*
Andy Elliott, *Pastor*
Sue & Ken Farkas, *Ushers*
Lois Stevens, *Greeter*
Ruth & Troy Tainter, *Facebook, WDEA & Zoom*
Cindy Sargent, *September 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 126 MEALS ON SEPTEMBER 16.

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.



*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

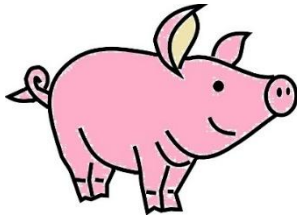
www.ucc.org/nin  UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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, September 26, 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.**

*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