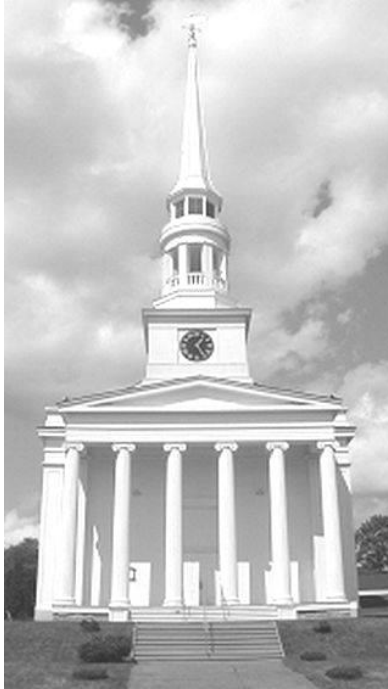


First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Ellsworth, Maine



Founded in 1812

*Come with hope or despair,
expectation, or disappointment, and
seek God even as God seeks you.*

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. Kindly fill out a yellow visitor's card that you'll find in the pew rack. Please join us for coffee after the service. If you have any questions, please ask an usher.

*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

October 18, 2026

10 a.m.

PRELUDE

*In Christ There is No East or West
Here I Am, Lord*

arr. Pethel
arr. Carter

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT *The Sun is on the Sea and Shore*

Bain

You may follow the text in the hymnal, #3.

TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: We come before God with our questions, our uncertainties, and our desire to understand.

All: We come with open minds and willing hearts.

One: God cannot be contained by our expectations or controlled by our desires.

All: God's love is greater than anything we can imagine.

One: We are not called to possess God's power, but to be transformed by God's presence.

All: Open our hearts, O God, and lead us in your ways.

One: Come, let us release what holds us back and embrace the love that makes us new.

All: With open hearts and renewed spirits, let us worship God!

*HYMN

Spirit of the living God

259

***GATHERING PRAYER (unison)**

Loving God, we come before you with open hearts, seeking your presence and wisdom. Too often, we cling to what is familiar rather than trusting where you lead. Remind us that your love cannot be contained and your Spirit cannot be controlled. Help us release our fears, embrace new possibilities, and allow your grace to transform our hearts. May our lives reflect your boundless love and compassion. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* arr. Barnard

Make me a channel of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.
Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where's there's sadness, ever joy.
O Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled
As to console, to be understood as to understand,
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.
Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to life.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word, open our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to your truth. Help us look beyond our own expectations and hear what your Spirit is calling us to understand. May these scriptures challenge our assumptions, deepen our faith, and inspire us to live more fully in your love. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament

Exodus 32:1-14

pew Bible p.72 OT

New Testament

Acts 8:14-25

pew Bible p.110 NT

SERMON **God Doesn't Need Our Control. God Wants Our Hearts.**

*HYMN

Trust and Obey

556

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries:

George, Holly Mary, Sid & Louise

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 *Let the Words of My Mouth*

Wiersbe

You may follow the text in the hymnal, #301.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY

If My People Will Pray

Owens

*DOXOLOGY

46

*DEDICATION

*HYMN

Take my life and let it be consecrated

609

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

To God Be the Glory

arr. Krug

Make me a channel of your peace, words Prayer of St. Francis | Public Domain
Music Sebastian Temple, arrangement Mark Barnard © 1967 OCP Publications

Roast Turkey Supper

Saturday, October 24, 2026 5:00 to 6:30 pm



*Roast turkey, gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes,
rolls, squash, peas, Caesar salad, homemade pies,
and beverages (coffee, tea, lemonade)*

\$12 per person

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

Great food ~ Great company ~ Great fun

**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



First Congregational Church UCC – Founded 1812
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