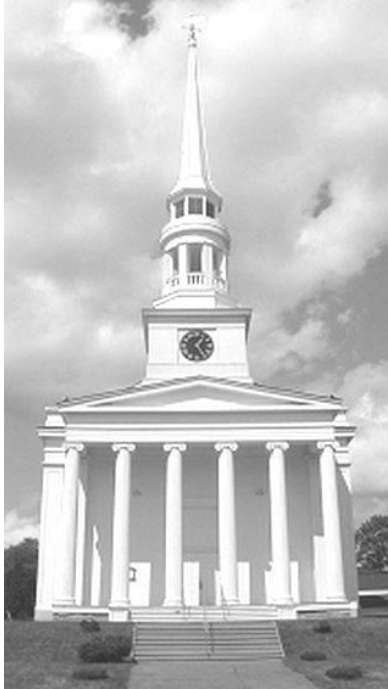


First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Ellsworth, Maine



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
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 25, 2026

10 a.m.

PRELUDE *Morning Has Broken* arr. Jacobsen

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT *God in the darkness* Crüger
God in the darkness, God beyond our knowing,
Patient creator, seed in secret growing, rock of the living,
Water ever flowing, come and renew us.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: God calls us forward, even when the path ahead is uncertain.

All: We come with faith, trusting that God's promises are greater than what we can see.

One: We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, grateful for their courage and faithfulness.

All: Their journey has brought us here, but God's story is still unfolding.

One: Jesus calls us to love God with all our hearts and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

All: May that love guide our steps, open our hearts, and lead us into something greater.

One: Come, people of God! The journey continues, and the promise is bigger than us!

All: With open hearts and hopeful spirits, let us worship the God who makes all things new!

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

Gracious and loving God, we gather with grateful hearts for the journeys that have brought us here and hope for what lies ahead. Remind us that Your promises are greater than what we can see. Give us courage to embrace change, wisdom to honor the past, and faith to trust in what is yet to come. Open our hearts to love more deeply, serve more faithfully, and follow wherever You lead. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Way Maker

Osinachi Okoro

You are here moving in our midst, I worship you,
You are here working in this place, I worship you.
*Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper,
Light in the darkness; my God, that is who you are.*
You are here touching every heart, I worship you,
You are healing every heart, I worship you. *Way maker...*
You are here turning lives around, I worship you,
You are here mending every heart, I worship you. *Way maker...*
You are here moving in our midst, I worship you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Gracious God, as we open Your Word, open our hearts and minds to hear Your voice. Help us see beyond what is familiar and recognize the greater possibilities You place before us. Give us wisdom to learn from the past, courage to embrace the future, and love to guide every step of our journey. May Your Word inspire us to live boldly, love deeply, and trust in the promises yet to unfold. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament
Gospel

Deuteronomy 34
Matthew 22:34-46

pew Bible p.179 OT
pew Bible p.22 NT

SERMON **Standing on the Edge of Something Greater, The Promise Is Bigger Than Us**

*HYMN *Help us accept each other* 487

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Amy, Bill, Roberta

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 *Dresden Amen* Naumann

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY *Blessed Quietness* Marshall

*DOXOLOGY 46

*DEDICATION

*HYMN *Lord, I want to be a Christian* 589

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Miller & Jackson

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Way Maker, words & music Osinachi Okoro © 2106 Integrity Music
CCLI License # 11546442 Streaming # 20543232
Arranged by Lloyd Larson © 2025 Hope Publishing Co.

Nancy Sargent, *Pianist & Choral Director*

Andy Elliott, *Pastor*

Tim Carter, *Liturgist*

Cindy Sargent & Myrna Vallette, *Ushers*

Lois Stevens, *Greeter*

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

Anne Bancroft, *October Deacon*

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

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

THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 126 MEALS ON OCTOBER 21.

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



First Congregational Church UCC – Founded 1812
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