

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Congregational responses are in **bold** and • means "please rise in body or spirit."

JANUARY 11, 2026 | ORDER OF WORSHIP



Prelude

Oren Varess (*they/them*)

Welcome

Deacon Glenn Tippy (*he/him*)

Call to Worship

Led by Deacon Glenn Tippy (*he/him*)

What are you looking for?

We are looking for hope.

We are looking for peace.

We are looking for courage.

What are you looking for?

We are looking for faith.

We are looking for love.

We are looking for grace.

What are you looking for?

We are looking for justice.

We are looking for wonder.

We are looking for God.

May we have eyes to see

May we have ears to hear

May we seek and find

and be sought and found

by the One whose love knows no bounds.

Alleluia and amen.

• Hymn

Gathered Here

No. 742 in the Red Hymnal

Centering Words

"Jacob's Blessing," by Jan Richardson

If this blessing were easy,
anyone could claim it.

As it is,

I am here to tell you
that it will take some work.

This is the blessing
that visits you
in the struggling,
in the wrestling,
in the striving.

This is the blessing
that comes
after you have left
everything behind,
after you have stepped out,
after you have crossed
into that realm
beyond every landmark
you have known.

This is the blessing
that takes all night
to find.

It's not that this blessing
is so difficult,
as if it were not filled
with grace
or with the love
that lives
in every line.

It's simply that
it requires you
to want it,
to ask for it,
to place yourself
in its path.

It demands that you
stand to meet it
when it arrives,
that you stretch yourself
in ways you didn't know
you could move,
that you agree
to not give up.

So when this blessing comes,
borne in the hands
of the difficult angel
who has chosen you,
do not let go.
Give yourself
into its grip.
It will wound you,
but I tell you
there will come a day
when what felt to you
like limping

was something more
like dancing
as you moved into
the cadence
of your new
and blessed name.

We Pass the Peace of Christ

Celebration of Gratitude

“If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough.”

-Meister Eckhart

As we name the abundant blessings of our lives (anniversaries, birthdays, clean-and-sober milestones, and many more!), we offer a gratitude gift in any amount, so that the blessings we have received from God may be multiplied and shared with all who long to experience God's extravagant welcome in this church and beyond.

Please consider using a gratitude heart, located in the racks in the pews, if you choose to make a gratitude gift.

We Sound the Bell

A Message for all Children of God

The Rev. Emily C. Goodnow (she/her)

Go now in peace, go now in peace
May the love of God surround you!
Everywhere, everywhere you may go

Our youngest disciples are invited to go downstairs with Sandy and our Children's Ministry Team

Sharing Our Sacred Story

Reader: Friends, hear what the Spirit is saying to the church today.

- John 1:29-42
- Genesis 32:22-32

Inclusive Bible Translation

Inclusive Bible Translation

Reader: This is the story of life for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

“What Are You Looking For?”

The Rev. Emily C. Goodnow (she/her)

• Hymn

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness | verses 1, 3 & 4

No. 286 in the Black Hymnal

Prayers of the People

Pastor Spencer Law (he/him)

The Lord's Prayer

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 sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering of Love and Promise

Deacon Theresa Hammond (she/her)

Offertory Music

Blessings Over Me | Pepper Choplin

First Church Senior Choir

• Words of Thanksgiving

**Praise God, from whom blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that Love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

**Loving and Holy God, we ask that You would pour out Your blessing on this offering today.
Guide us in Your way and use these gifts to make our church and our world even more:**

We call out words like “joyful, kind, just” to bless our church and world

Benediction

Postlude

Oren Varess (they/them)

Service Credits:

First Church Ministry Leaders

Ministers

All of Us

Senior Pastor

Rev. Emily C. Goodnow (*she/her*)

Minister for Intergenerat'l Innovation

Pastor Spencer Law (*he/him*)

C.E. Coordinator

Sandy Wissmann (*she/her*)

Music Director

Deborah Owen (*she/her*)

Organist & Pianist

Oren Varess (*they/them*)

Youth Music Director

Cassie Cooper-Ricci (*they/them*)

Office Manager

Kylie Morel (*she/her*)

Co-Moderators

Rosemary Wiser (*she/her*)

Marita Wiser (*she/her*)

Treasurer - Asst. Treasurer

Peter Clark (*he/him*)

Gail McBride (*she/her*)

Trustee of the Week

Carly Hall (*she/her*)

Deacon of the Week

Glenn Tippy (*he/him*)

Greeters-Hospitality

Stephanie Wilcher & Marcia Uhl

C.E. Leaders

Edna & Jessica Engstrom, Gail
McBride

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This Sunday, January 11

- Worship, 10 am, with Rev. Emily C. Goodnow preaching
- Snack & Chat, 11:30 am
- Deacons' Meeting, 11:30 am
- Trustees' Meeting, 11:30 am
- Visitation Team Meeting, 12:30 pm

Monday, January 12

- Wellspring Journey Presentation by Debbie Owen, 11

Tuesday, January 13

- Jeanette's Closet, 9-11 am
- Tiny Tots, 9 - 10 am
- Staff Meeting, 10:30 am
- Prayer Group via Zoom, 1:30 pm

Wednesday, January 14

- Bible Study with Pastor Emily leading, parlor, 10 am

Thursday, January 15

- Senior Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm

Friday, January 16

- Bible Study, parlor, 2 pm

Next Sunday, January 18

- Worship, 10 am, with Rev. Emily C. Goodnow preaching
- Snack & Chat, 11:30 am
- PAC Safety Training, 12 pm

Next Monday, January 19

- Presidents Day; Church Office Closed

Church office is open 9 am - 12 pm, Mon-Fri
33 S. High St., Bridgton ME 04009 | 647-3936 bridgtonucc.org |
office@bridgtonucc.org

Announcements

Wellspring Journey Presentation by Debbie Owen

Join Debbie Owen for a guided lunchtime session on **Monday, January 12th** from 11 am to 12:20 pm here at First Church. For more information and to RSVP, please see the weekly email.

PAC Safety Training

PAC (prevention, action, change) Safety Training will take place on **Sunday, January 18th** from noon to 2 pm. It will be conducted with two counselors. We can accommodate around 30 participants. Please let Kylie in the church office know if you plan to come!

Annual Meeting is Approaching!

Our annual meeting is taking place **Sunday, January 25th** immediately after worship in the sanctuary! All are warmly invited and encouraged to attend. The agenda and bylaw revisions can be found in the weekly email. The annual report will be available in next weeks email. Printed copies are available upon request.

Pilgrim Lodge Camp Day!

We will be hosting a Pilgrim Lodge Day for children to come and enjoy a day at "Summer Camp" on **February 19th** from 9 am to 4 pm. Please register your kiddo(s) through the online form in the weekly email by February 12th. If you would like to volunteer or donate supplies for this event, please contact Sandy.

Personnel Committee's Call for Assistance

Calling all policy and human resources enthusiasts to lend assistance to the Personnel Committee as we revise our written materials for church employees. In the new year, we will be updating an employee handbook and other church policies to reflect our Open and Inclusive (ONA) beliefs. Your assistance is appreciated, and does not bind you to the committee long term, unless, of course, you would like to join us! Please contact Laura Cleveland by text if you are interested, 207-615-8989. Thank you.