

# UCC NEWS



## January 2017

*An Open and Affirming Church*  
*"A fellowship in Jesus, the Christ showing God's love to all people."*

A monthly publication of

**United Church of Christ, First Congregational**

11 West Main Street, Norwich, NY 13815

The Rev. Mr. Joseph Connolly, Pastor and Teacher

**Call to  
203<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting  
Sunday January 29<sup>th</sup>  
during the worship service.**

**All members are urged to attend to  
vote on the 2017 budget.**

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Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00 a.m.  
Childcare Provided

Church Office Hours:  
Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.  
Friday 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Telephone: 607-334-3434

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# From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

There has been much talk lately about “fake news” also referred to as “hoax news.” Fake news— often published on the Internet— deliberately produces hoaxes, propaganda, disinformation.

Unlike news satire, fake news seeks to mislead, not entertain, for financial or other gain. Fake news has promoted political falsehoods in Germany, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sweden, China, Myanmar and the United States. Sites tend to originate from Russia, Macedonia, Romania and right here in the U.S.

But those who think fake news is new have not read about *The Philadelphia Aurora*, published from 1794 to 1824. It was noted for making up untrue, vitriolic stories— fake news— about the administrations of George Washington and John Adams.

Those who think fake news is new do not know about William Randolph Hearst (1863–1951) who built the largest newspaper chain in the country. He used flamboyant methods of “yellow journalism” (A.K.A. fake news) which influenced the media all across this nation.

Now, I would be the last to say fake news is not a problem. But I want to come at fake news from a different angle. Certainly part of the problem is “what are we predisposed to believe?” What are our strongly held beliefs and/or fantasies— our internalized fake news— and how do our strongly held beliefs influence us?

Here is an example of pre-disposition of beliefs from the book *The Undoing Project* by Michael Lewis. In a given “scramble” some fighter jet pilots will fly a mission well and others will not.

When their superior officers chastise those who do not do well and praise those who do well an interesting thing happens. The pilots who did well and were praised always do less well the next time out. The pilots who were chastised always do better.

The superior officers believed their praise and/or chastisement produced these results because they held a preconceived notion about the effect their input had. And they

were wrong.

Deeper research showed the praise and/or chastisement had no appreciable effect whatsoever. The performances the pilots turned in were simply reverting to a mean.

The officers would have been better off saying nothing! In short, the idea that what the superior officers said had an effect was simply their own strongly held fantasy, their own fake news.

Let's turn to theology using that fake news example. At the end of the service on January 1<sup>st</sup>, I took off my robe to show those in attendance a sweater which made me look like a fantasy version (a fake news version) of Santa Claus. (See the picture!!!)

'So, what does Santa Claus (the real Saint Nicholas) look like?' I asked the congregation. The real Saint Nicholas was a Bishop in the Fourth Century in what we today call Turkey.

Saint Nicholas may have had a beard but it is unlikely he would have been the rotund Northern European fellow whom our fantasies, our fake news beliefs about Christmas, have imprinted on our brains. It is likely Saint Nicholas would have had dark skin.

Even more importantly, I said on that Sunday, the real Saint Nicholas was known for secretly giving gifts to the poor, the outcast. That is the real connection between gift giving and Saint Nicholas, A.K.A. Santa Claus— giving gifts to the poor, giving gifts to the outcast.

Well, suppose we did away with the cultural fantasies, the fake news we hold dear about Santa Claus, and did away with our 'normal' gift giving practices at Christmastide? Suppose we did away with this kind of fake news and concentrated on the real the meaning of Christmas? The real meaning— that Christ is with us.



In fact, let's come back to gift giving. Let's say gift giving is a good idea. But let's honor the real and Christ like gift giving tradition of Saint Nicholas— taking care of the poor and the outcast.

Suppose we *secretly* gave gifts to the poor and outcast at Christmastide?

If we approached Christmas that way, instead of fueling our fake news Santa Claus fantasies, perhaps *we* could change the world.

I want to suggest changing the world to the kind of vision God might have for the world— a world where the poor and the outcast are cared for— is what church is about. Indeed, do you, do we, does the church want to change the world?

The world to which the church invites us is a world in which the reality of poverty, inequity, hunger, lack of adequate health care for all, lack of adequate shelter for everyone needs to be and is addressed. This world would be a changed world.

I want to invite us, this congregation to be the church which deals not in the fake news of the society in which we live. I want to invite us, this congregation, to deal with the world in which we really live.

So, as I often say, “See you in church.” Indeed, I believe our church in Norwich can be a church that grapples with reality by spreading our gifts beyond our doors.

In Faith



Joe Connolly



**Paper Products Sunday**

**January 15**

Bring in paper products and personal care items as well as diapers for First Baptist Church's free diaper project.

# Meet Your Neighbors: Ed and Ruth Tucker

By Elizabeth Barber-Breese

Ed and Ruth Tucker may have gone to the same high school, both graduating in 1955, but their story didn't start there. They weren't a couple of high school sweethearts, together forever. Instead, Ed joined the army and traveled the world. Both of them were married to other people. This is a story about two people who crossed vast distances to find their way to one another.

Before this love story, there was Ed's career in the military. Ed's eyes sparkle when he recounts his adventures. His words have the power to transport you to faraway lands under extreme conditions. (Really, you *must* ask Ed to tell you one of his stories.) In January of 1960, he was with an engineering unit making topographic maps of what were, for the army, uncharted territories of Libya. The BP Company was setting up places to pump oil in areas where oil had been newly discovered. His unit had to make tracks in the endless sand, so that 55 gallon oil drums could be delivered to their destination. For 18 months, they laid down tracks with vehicles known as "skunks." A day trip to get water, and you wouldn't want to get turned around in the wrong direction, as every direction looked the same without the tracks made by the skunk vehicles. Ed's experiences in the Middle East represent a fraction of the arduous but memorable work that he accomplished.

A military life can also be difficult on a non-military spouse. Long separations, new places can take their toll. And that's what happened with Ed's first wife; she just wasn't cut out for that kind of life. So it was that Ed found himself single in 1971, hanging out at Hand's Inn the very same night as Ruth (now also single). He recognized her from school, and they struck up a conversation. They and their groups of friends were having a great time drinking and bowling. Ed remembers, "Next thing I know, I needed a ride." Ruth fixed him breakfast before taking him home. As it turned out, this night was their moment—Ed told her that he'd be back in six months, and when he came back, they had to get married.

Ruth had never been out of NY State, and here she was

signing up for a life of travel. The couple lived all over, in places like Ft. Bragg, North Carolina; El Paso, Texas; Ft. Knox, Kentucky, and various places in Germany. The couple went to every location together, only separated when Ed went to Vietnam. Ruth learned that to make the most out of each experience, she needed to explore the area, find something to do. She learned about being an Army wife, hosting coffees, volunteering for the Red Cross, heading up the wives' club. She became a mentor to other wives. Ruth was so active, that she made a name for herself. She earned the St. Barbara Award at Ft. Knox, was given an award for her work with the Red Cross, and was designated an Honorary Citizen in Giessen, Germany. In fact, Ruth was so popular in Germany that more people knew her than knew Ed; she introduced *him* to generals!

Overall, Ed spent 30 years in the Army, moving through the ranks to Command Sergeant Major. And Ruth was by his side for the majority of those years. They settled in Kentucky and stayed for 25 years after retirement. They loved Kentucky's weather, the cost of living, and the many friends they had made there. However, as the years went on, they thought more and more about making the move back to Norwich. Their siblings lived there, so they always came at least once per year anyway. They made the move in December 2014, moving in by Christmas. They still miss their friends from Kentucky, but they are now closer to Ruth's sister. Just as they have always done wherever they are, Ed and Ruth have jumped right in to community life—attending church, joining the American Legion, and the VFW, hoping to volunteer elsewhere.

Ed and Ruth Tucker have been in this adventure together. The respect they have for one another is palpable. They have immersed themselves in every place they have ever been, taking full advantage of every opportunity. Throughout these experiences, church was another constant that centered their lives. In the Army, they attended chapel, a non-denominational gathering of service members. Noting how easily people with different backgrounds worshipped together, Ruth said, "If you can't make it work in church, how will you make it work in the world?" This statement seems to speak to the heart of who the Tuckers are. They seek harmony in the world around them and in their marriage.



## Historian Notes

by Patricia Evans, Church Historian

### Rev. Charles William Wilhelm, Interim Minister

Charles Wilhelm was a 1967 graduate of Clarion Area High School in Clarion, PA. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Clarion State College also in Clarion, PA, in 1972. Then he went on to Arizona State University, Graduate School of Religion at Tempe AZ, graduating in 1984. Charles received his Master of Divinity from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkley, CA in 1987 and in 2001 completed his Doctorate of Sacred Theology from Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

Wilhelm's previous positions included: Executive Director of Muscular Dystrophy Association of Arizona, where he oversaw a staff of 14 full-time professionals and 15 part-time volunteers. In this position he oversaw a \$ 2.5 million budget and was responsible for the fund raising of over \$1.5 million. He also served as director of the summer camp for 350 dystrophic children.

He was Director of Development/Teacher at Valley Lutheran High School. Intern minister at Ione/Condon UCC in Oregon and Student/Assistant Pastor at the Pacific School of Religion at the Orinda Community Church in Orinda, CA.

Charles's local church at the time of his interview for the position here in Norwich was with the Church of The Beatitudes located in Phoenix, AZ. where he was Student/Assistant Pastor. He held numerous other positions with the church some of which were: hand bell choir director, youth leader, choir member, adjunct staff person, committee member, dishwasher, liturgist and janitor.

Wilhelm's other positions beyond the church included Song Leader in Northern CA, Conference Annual Meeting and Worship Leader of the Bay Association Fall Meeting. He was also active in the Contra Costa Ministerial Task Force on Teen Pregnancy, the Community Recreation Board, Community Youth Advisory Board and the "Say No to Drugs" Speakers Board.

Rev. Wilhelm was hired as interim minister at UCC Norwich in 1987.

Once a permanent minister was called, Rev. Wilhelm's services as Interim Minister were no longer required. That was effective August 15, 1988. A "Farewell Reception" was held July 31, 1988, in the Nave and reception followed in the Founders Room. Rev. Wilhelm was presented with a patchwork stole made of cotton pieces donated by members of the congregation. He was also presented with a monetary gift.

After leaving Norwich, Chuck became the Director of the San Francisco Zoo.

Chuck returned to Norwich to advise on the O&A process and was very proud of Norwich for the positive vote.

He is currently a member of Bloom in the Desert UCC in Palm Springs, California, and a regular fill-in pastor in several churches in The Coachella Valley.

Chuck keeps busy as President of Modern Men, Coachella Valley Men's Chorus and working on human rights issues in Southern California.

## BEYOND WORDS



Losing a child to accidental death or illness is something that no one is ever adequately prepared for. When the death of a child occurs, no matter what the circumstances or details, there are often questions and concerns about grieving and mourning that go unanswered or even unexplored. Whether the loss is very recent or years, even decades ago, grieving for a child is often a lonely and confusing time. A group is being formed in an endeavor to give people who have experienced such a loss a place where they can interact with others who are on a similar journey of grief. The thought is that this group could provide a safe place to share stories and, hopefully, lend support to one another. The group is intended for parents who have lost a child but it is encouraged that anyone who can or would offer support to the parent(s) along their journey, attend as well. All are welcome. The next meeting is **Wednesday, January 18th, at 7:00 p.m. at the YMCA, North Broad Street, Norwich.** For any questions or for further information, please contact Linda @ 607-334-8793 or First Baptist Church at 607-336-2509.



# Director of Children and Youth Ministries

Linda L. Oehme









Come and see what our new curriculum, *Whole People of God*, is all about. Our fourth unit is entitled “New World, New Day”. We are in a new year, and we are in a new day. As we have just come from experiencing again the transformation of the Christmas story, we realize that we cannot leave it behind in December, but are challenged to carry its message of peace and hope into the new year—into a new world and a new day. The gospel stories that we read in this season tell of the beginnings of Jesus’ ministry, and we certainly can think of the disciples discovering that they were in quite a new world and new day as they left their old lives behind and chose to follow Jesus. As we read some passages from the Sermon on the Mount, we recognize that the new world Jesus is speaking about is something we are called to help bring about. When we seek out ways to love our enemies, and to live the essence of God’s law rather than the letter of it, amazing things can happen!

During the Christmas vacation, Mrs. Mallozzi (Jen), and I with the help of Meena and Chad Conant, transformed the Church School spaces into a better functioning space for Church School and a Music studio. It looks great and this Sunday the children will see it for the first time.

Also, at the same time, the Adult Bible Study meets most Sundays and most Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. We’re never too old to learn and refresh our faith. Come join us!

## Opportunities for Ministry

- Sunday, January 8, 2017—Soup and Bread Luncheon followed by the un-decorating the Nave.
- Sunday, January 15, Communion
- Sunday, January 22, Guest Preacher, Tom Olson
- Sunday, January 29, Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>January 2017</b> 						
1 <b>New Year's Day</b> 9:30 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship	2 <i>Church Office Closed</i> 4:00 a.m. K. Given, Founders' Rm.	3 9:00 a.m. Tax Training 1:00 p.m. TNT Quilters	4 2:30 p.m. A. Humer, Founders' RM. 6:00 p.m Bible Study 7:00 p.m .Choir	5 9:00 a.m. Tax Training	6 9:00 a.m. Coffee and Collate the Newsletter, Founders' Rm.	7 4:00 p.m. UCCNY Conference Meeting
8 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship <i>Blessing of Stuffed Animals</i> 11:00 a.m. Soup & Bread 11:45 a.m. Undecorate 3:00 p.m. Pastor Joe at Chenango Valley Home 4:00 p.m. SAME Mtg., Kitchen	9 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry, Chapel 4:00 p.m .K. Given, Founders' Rm. 	10 9:00 a.m. Tax Training 10:00 a.m .Tutoring, Chapel 1:00 p.m. TNT Quilters	11 9:30 a.m. Committee on Authorized Ministry Mtg. 2:30 p.m. A. Humer, Founders Rm. 3:00 p.m. M. Conant 6:00 p.m Bible Study 7:00 p.m .Choir	12 9:00 a.m Tax Training 10:00 a.m .Tutoring 11:00 a.m. Food Pantry Meeting 12:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs 6:00 p.m. Piecemakers 7:00 p.m. Executive Council	13 	14 10:00 a.m. UCCNY Conference Meeting
15 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion <i>Paper Products Sunday</i> 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m .Bell Choir	16 <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i> 10:00 a.m .Home Bureau 4:00 p.m. K. Given, Founders' Rm. 7:00 p.m .Trustees	17 9:00 a.m. Head Start Policy Council 9:00 a.m. Tax Training 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 1:00 p.m. TNT Quilters	18 2:30 p.m. A. Humer, Founders Rm. 3:00 p.m. M. Conant 6:00 p.m Bible Study 7:00 p.m .Choir 7:00 p.m Democratic Committee, Founders' Rm. 7:00 p.m. Beyond Words Support Group. See p. 8.	19 9:00 a.m. Tax Training 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 10:30 a.m. Chi Quong, Mayflower Rm. 12:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs 6:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group, Founders' Rm.	20 	21 
22 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship - Rev. Tom Olson will share the Word 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir	23 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:00 p.m .K. Given, Founders' Rm.	24 9:00 a.m. Tax Training 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 1:00 p.m. TNT Quilters	25 2:30 p.m. A. Humer, Founders Rm. 3:00 p.m. M. Conant 6:00 p.m Bible Study 7:00 p.m .Choir	26 9:00 a.m. Tax Training 10:00 a.m. Tutoring, Chapel 10:30 a.m. Chi Quong 12:00 p.m. M. Conant	27 	28 
29 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship and Annual Meeting 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m .Bell Choir	30 4:00 p.m. K. Given, Founders' Rm.	31 9:00 a.m. Tax Training 10:00 a.m .Tutoring 1:00 p.m. TNT Quilters				

## **Grief Services at Hospice**

**by Rachel Barletta, Grief Services Coordinator**  
**Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango County**

Grief is a response to a loss. Grief is, therefore, how people come to feel after that loss. Grief has an effect on how people think and how they make it through each day after someone dies. Grief— this response to loss— affects all aspects of life. It embodies the realization that life will no longer be lived as expected.

Although people deal with loss in different ways, grief is a universal part of the human experience. Grief can be profoundly painful and at times overwhelming, making day to day tasks seem difficult or impossible. Help dealing with grief can be found in the support of others.

Hospice is ready to help with care and ready to help with support. Indeed, Hospice of Chenango County *cares about you*. Hospice *wants to help you*. Hospice is a non-profit organization that offers grief support services to anyone living in Chenango County following the death of a loved one, including those who have never been involved with Hospice before. These services are offered at no cost.

The objective of grief counseling is to listen and to support— to give people a confidential space to process their feelings— their sadness, fear, confusion, shock or anger. It is also a place for information and suggestions for coping and for moving forward. Hospice also offers grief support groups for individuals who may benefit from the insight and empathy of others who have had similar experiences.

These services are also available to children in Chenango County who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Our grief support for children offers age-appropriate interventions to engage and support children, to normalize their experiences, answer questions and concerns, process feelings and begin to heal.

In March of 2017, we are offering a two-day camp for children who have experienced the loss of a loved one. The camp will include games and activities to encourage healthy grieving and healing and offer a place for children to get support and understanding from each other.

If you are struggling with the death of a significant person

in your life and feel you could benefit from support, information and resources, Hospice is available to help. Please contact Rachel Barletta, the Grief Services Coordinator for Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango County at 607-334-3556 for more information.



## Visitors to our Church in December

Evelyn Boyles, Wysox, PA  
 Grace Burke, Watertown  
 David Connelly  
 Fay Connelly  
 Kayla Farrell  
 Linda and Paul Flores, Marco Island, FL  
 Anthony Greig  
 Lauren Hazard  
 Bill Johnson  
 Grace King  
 Mariellen Lemasters, Naples, FL  
 Antonia Mody  
 Elijah O'Neill  
 Lilian O'Neill  
 Pat Wassenaar, S New Berlin  
 Thomas Smith, Boston, MA  
 Beth Smith, Newton, MA  
 Bob Smith, Newton MA  
 Julie Solomon, Norwich  
 Wendy Stanton, Oneonta  
 Carolyn Steward  
 Mary Ellen Miner, Norwich  
 Cindy Brown, S Plymouth  
 Anne Brereton, Berlin VT

Welcome

# Revised Common Lectionary

You may be aware that the readings used at services of worship in most Mainline Protestant churches and in Roman Catholic Churches are from the list of assigned readings known as The New Revised Common Lectionary. In our Congregational tradition, while pastors are encouraged to use the assigned readings, it's not mandatory. This is published in the hope that some may use these readings in their personal prayer and devotional time.

## **Baptism of the Lord - January 8**

### **First Sunday after the Epiphany**

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

### **Second Sunday after the Epiphany - January 15**

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

### **Third Sunday after the Epiphany - January 22**

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

### **Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany - January 29**

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12



## Education Opportunity

American Church History

Rev. Steven Johnson, Ph.D., instructor

Lectures Are Accessed by Computer

Wednesday evenings, 6:30-9 p.m.

January 18 & 25; February 1, 8, 15, 22; March 8 & 15

Cost: NY Conference Participants: \$250; Audit: \$175;

Participants outside the New York Conference: \$275;

Registration Deadline: January 10, 2017

The course offers an overview of the development of Christian churches in the United States with an emphasis on ideas and events that have shaped the United Church of Christ. Note: American Church History fulfills 20 hours of continuing education for authorized ministers seeking to meet CE requirements. Register online here: <<http://files.constantcontact.com/341c69bb001/27ae1a59-1158-4200-ab00-236d048df7ae.pdf>>



## Letters

Dear Joe and Bonnie,

Thank you for always bringing the Word of God to our residents. They appreciate it so much! Merry Christmas to you.

Rose and the Residents of Chenango Valley Home

Advent and Christmas Season Greetings -

This time of year especially, brings back happy memories of our Norwich years. Please find additions to the mitten tree in hopes they bring some warmth to children who need it and a bit of help for the stewardship challenge. It's so good to see such collaboration.

Warm best wishes to all.

Bar Werner

*(continued next*

**LETTERS (continued)**

Hi Mary,

I just wanted to reiterate my sincere thanks for all your time and effort with the cantata we did yesterday. It was such a fun experience and both my husband and I really enjoyed the experience!

I also wanted to share a thought that I'd had... several times actually, since your "Water From the Well" seminar 17 months ago. I'm now in the senior citizen category... and we do a fair amount of thinking. I was a trained music teacher and had been forced, by personal considerations, to find immediate employment in 1978. I was able to get one... but not in teaching. I stayed with the firm for 20 years and really enjoyed the work. Fast forward to 2015 and I was doing some serious thinking about "why" did I pursue a degree in music education. An invitation came, as organist in Sidney, to your seminar and after that week-end I "remembered" why I got that degree. I love good music and guess I always will.

Just wanted you to know that I really appreciate what you're doing... and sincerely thank you for some very special times!

Mary Jane Plummer

Mary,

My heart has been so filled with joy and gratitude since the Cantata last night. I feel so grateful to have been part of such an awesome celebration. Your vision and your ability to bring it to fruition I see as a gift directly from God to you.

I could see you visualizing and choosing every step, every sound and making choices to bring the best forward. This success was not a Christmas miracle, but the result of your very, very hard work plus the power and tenacity and faith in yourself and us. Thank you for the experience.

Last night was the first time I was part of a group that received a standing ovation. It had a surreal effect on me I feel much gratitude for Bob, (and his page-turner) Meena, Leona, the entire choir and all the readers.

It definitely will be among my favorite joyous memories  
Thank God!!!!

Continued blessings.

Pat Burke

## Cantata Performed

On December 18<sup>th</sup>, the UCC music department offered *A Ceremony of Candles: A Cantata for Advent and Christmas* by Joseph Martin. Rehearsals began on the first Sunday in November and continued for 6 consecutive weeks.

Organist Bob Oehme and Director of Music Ministries, Mary Williams worked together to prepare the choir of over 60 singers, drawing from 15 community organizations listed below. UCC members Meena Conant and Leona Tyler were featured vocal soloists along with UCC Parish Coordinator Cheri Willard on flute. Narrators for the event were area clergy members including UCC Pastor Joe Connolly, as well as Pastors David Spiegel of First Baptist, Nancy Hale of Broad Street United Methodist, Deacon Dave Kirsch of St. Paul's Roman Catholic, and community members Kisten Giglio of Emmanuel Episcopal, and Steve Craig and Katie Izzo, both of Norwich UCC.

The performance was very well received and well attended by the community, which contributed \$541 in a free will offering to benefit Our Daily Bread Food Closet. A special thanks goes out to the Deacons who provided a soup dinner for all the participants at the dress rehearsal.



*Participants posing at a rehearsal for  
A Ceremony of Candles.*

*(continued next page)*



**CANTATA (continued)****PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS:**

Broad Street United Methodist Church, Norwich  
 Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Norwich  
 Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Norwich  
 First Baptist Church of Norwich  
 First Baptist of South New Berlin  
 First Congregational, Sidney  
 Norwich Community Member  
 Norwich City Schools Staff/Students/Parents  
 Oxford Academy  
 Oxford United Methodist Church  
 St. Bartholomew Roman Catholic Church, Norwich  
 St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church, Norwich  
 St. Theresa's Catholic Church, New Berlin  
 United Church of Christ, Norwich  
 United Church of Christ, Sherburne

**January Birthdays**

These are the birthdays of members and friends of our church family. If you know someone on the list who's having a birthday, feel free to send that person a card. Even if you don't know anyone on the list, feel free to send any celebrant a card. More importantly, strive to hold each of these people up in prayer on the anniversary of their birth. Please call the church office with additions or corrections (334-3434).

2 Fiora Breese  
 Keegan Prime

4 Barbara Kraft

5 Timothy Duke

7 Elizabeth Barber-Breese

10 Joy Barrows

11 Antonio Adams



16 Danny Carson

20 Briana Phelps

22 Steve Emmons

24 Corey Johnson

26 Michael Carson

31 Virginia Chaplin

## Prayer Concerns

Let us keep in our prayers the following concerns:

- \* families-those families that may be going through particularly difficult times, families seeking God's guidance;
- \* those who are moving because of their work, those looking for work, and those looking for meaning in their work.
- \* those who are ill, who are recovering from illness or surgery, or who anticipate going to the hospital.
- \* those who grieve over the death of someone they love.
- \* our church, that it might be faithful to its calling, our pastor, all staff members and committees.
- \* peace in the world.
- \* gay, lesbian and bisexual and transgendered persons, and all those who feel isolated and alone.

### OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO

**Pat and Tom Olson** for the death of Pat's mother, **Elsie Parsons** who died on December 26, 2016.

**Kristen Metz and Ben and Joshua** for the death of their father and grandfather **Jim Metz** on December 2, 2016.



## Bulletins from Other Churches

**Joe and Bonnie Connolly** - Emmanuel Episcopal Church,  
Norwich NY, December 24, 2016.

**Gary and Vicki Gray** - St. John's Church Fountain Square,  
Larchmont, NY, December 24, 2016.

# UCC NEWS

United Church of Christ  
First Congregational  
11 West Main Street  
Norwich, NY 13815-1612



DATED MATERIAL: Please Deliver Promptly.  
This issue mailed 01/06/2017.

STANDARD A  
PERMIT 24  
NORWICH NY 13815

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Ministers: **All the People**  
Pastor and Teacher: **The Rev. Mr. Joseph Connolly**  
Moderator: **Steve Craig**  
Director of Children/Youth Ministries: **Linda Oehme**  
Director of Music Ministries: **Mary Williams**  
Financial Secretary: **Donna Wood-Craig**  
Parish Coordinator: **Cheri Willard**  
Counselor, Family Counseling Ministry: **Joanne Ferguson**