

UCC NEWS

October 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

Congregational Business Meetings

October 15 - Question and Answer Session about Proposed change to By-laws at Coffee Hour (See page 7).

October 22 - Vote on the By-laws change during worship service.

October 29 - Informational Budget Meeting after the worship service.

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

E-mail: office@uccnorwichny.org Website: www.uccnorwichny.org



From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

You may remember last month I devoted this space to the topic of change. Let's do it again!

Now, as has often been said— and to use the overused cliché— the only constant is change. Of course, that leaves the question, “how can we be ready, be prepared for change.” I want to suggest the real answer to that question is, “You can never be ready for change.”

To be clear, another way to see change is to say what change really means is— *things happen*. And often we have no control over things happening to us. Put yet another way I think it is valid to identify change using the word ‘luck.’ What *defines* luck? Things happen.

All that brings me to one of my favorite quotes of all time. The quote is about luck. The words I am about to repeat were spoken by one Mr. Branch Rickey (1881-1965). Rickey was an American sports executive. He is best known for breaking Major League Baseball's color barrier by signing African American player Jackie Robinson when he worked for the Brooklyn Dodgers in the 1940s.

But Rickey also drafted the first Hispanic superstar, Roberto Clemente when he worked for the Pittsburgh Pirates in the late 1950s. Rickey was also involved with creating the framework for the modern baseball minor league farm system, in the 1930s when he was employed by the St. Louis Cardinals.

All that history points to one thing. Rickey knew something about how the real world operates, knew change was normal and was intimately familiar with change. Or as I am suggesting, since chance and luck are somewhat connected, Rickey was familiar with luck. And this is what Rickey said about luck: “Luck is the residue of design.”

And we all know this: luck happens. Things happen to us. Therefore, things change.

Hence, what I'm saying is you at least have to try to be ready for change. You have to anticipate change will happen, even if the change which does happen is unexpected or even if the change is different than what you thought it would be. Change does happen. You (we?) need to be ready for anything.

Ready for anything? Now that's a tall order! On the other

hand, if you are ready for change, as Rickey suggested, design comes into play.

In a recent article in *The Christian Century* Stephanie Paulsell, a professor at Harvard Divinity School, reminisces that when her daughter was taking violin lessons the teacher would make modest suggestions. “Move your elbow forward an inch.” The small adjustment having been made, miraculously and somehow, the tone would deepen.

In a real sense, she says, the teacher was trying to train her daughter’s body to remember how to make a beautiful sound. Muscle memory, training yourself how to do certain things, how to respond, how to anticipate— this is something musicians, athletes, academics know about.

My point is you can train yourself to respond to change. Indeed, in one sense anticipating change, no matter what kind of change happens, means simply having your muscle memory attuned for the fact that anything might happen.

Put differently and as Rickey said, luck is the residue of design. When you are ready for change you can take advantage of that change, that luck. Being ready for change means having a muscle memory that recognizes and responds to change, no matter what form that change takes. A muscle memory that is ready for change is the design we need.

Here is another reality (really the reality I’ve been addressing all along). Change is about the unknown. We cannot possibly know or predict what will happen an hour from now, next week, next month, next year, etc., etc., etc.

Yes, we can plan. Planning is good. But do plans ever work out perfectly? I don’t know about you but I vaguely remember I thought I had some plans which worked to perfection back in 1972. But right after I congratulated myself on success, I found out I was wrong!

Indeed, when was the last time all your plans worked to perfection? If that’s ever happened to you, let me know. The truth is we all need to go with the flow.

Well, that brings me to an interesting topic pertinent to church as the church relates to muscle memory: what is theological muscle memory? Does theology give us a framework for knowing things in advance?

Probably not. Why? God is unknowable in any kind of fulness. But guess what? Neither is the future knowable.

Theologian and monk Thomas Merton once wrote that faith does not turn the unknown into the known; faith integrates the unknown dynamically into our lives.

Hence, I think to face change we need to develop a specific kind of muscle memory, a theological muscle memory. We need to develop a muscle memory for moving toward what we cannot see.

We need to develop a muscle memory which allows for the unknowable mystery of God. We need to develop a muscle memory which embodies a hope that can draw near to the unknowable mystery of God. We need to develop a muscle memory which embodies a hope that can draw near to better understand the unknowable mystery of God.

How is that done? A theological awareness about change is fostered when we pray regularly. A theological awareness about change is fostered when we attend worship regularly. A theological awareness about change is fostered when we read and study Scripture regularly.

Perhaps we need to ask what is the theological framework for the work we do in church? Does that framework include integrating the unknown into our life as a community of faith, integrating the unknown into the muscle memory of our faith? Does it include prayer and worship with reading and studying Scripture?

All that having been said, let me say what I usually say. I'll see you in church where our theological framework needs to concentrate on our theological muscle memory because change will happen. And we can be ready for change through prayer, worship and reading and studying Scripture.

In Faith,



Joe Connolly



Director of Children and Youth Ministries

Linda L. Oehme

Rally Day was a great success. We kicked off the new Church School year with our the second year of *The Whole People of God*. Charlie the church mouse even made an appearance. This curriculum inspires children from 3-12 years old. Currently, we are learning about the life of Moses. Church School classes meet upstairs most Sundays at 8:30 a.m. Come and see what it is all about. We will also have Adult Bible Study in the Chapel most Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and most Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. None of us are ever too old to learn and refresh our faith.

October 15th will mark the first Church School coffee hour. The children will prepare most of the treats for that fellowship time. Our curriculum ties in the preparations and recipes that promote these activities.

The Nursery room has had a complete clean out and will serve the children even better.

Stay tuned to the preparations for the Thanksgiving Basket Project and the new and improved Christmas Project. These are ways you can be involved with church beyond its doors. More details to follow in November and December issues of this newsletter. Watch in the bulletins for more opportunities for ministry.



NEEDED: Refrigerator and/or Freezer

The church would like to have a freezer and/or refrigerator available in the basement, specifically for use at Thanksgiving Basket time, but also at other times throughout the year. If you have one you'd consider donating, please contact Cheri Willard in the church office.



A singing opportunity is being planned for Norwich and the surrounding area. Singers from area church choirs, school choirs, and community members are invited to join together to perform *Darkness Into Light: A Christmas Musical Journey* by Mary McDonald.

The event will be hosted by the United Church of Christ, First Congregational of Norwich under the leadership of Mary Mayo Williams (director) and Bob Oehme (accompanist). The rehearsals and performance will take place at the church located at 11 West Main Street in Norwich.

Darkness Into Light is an extended work for singers and narrators (duration 40 minutes) which will require a commitment of significant preparation time. The musical selections feature fresh settings of carols along with beautiful new songs that celebrate the Light of Christ.

Rehearsals will be held on six Sunday afternoons in November and December. A performance will be given on Sunday afternoon December 17 at 4:00 p.m.

This is the second Ecumenical Event for Advent sponsored by the United Church of Christ. Mary Williams began planning for this year's program shortly after the success of *A Ceremony of Candles* which took place in December 2016. Nearly 60 singers from 15 area church and school choirs came together for that event, which raised over \$500 for the local food pantry at Emmanuel Episcopal Church.

Singers who wish to participate must register through the UCC church office at 334-3434 or <www.uccnorwichny.org> There will be no registration fee, although singers will need to purchase their own music booklet. (Scholarships available).

Proposed Change to the By-Laws

We, as a congregation, will soon be embarking on a journey we have not taken in over 20 years. Pastor and Teacher Joe Connolly will be retiring July 1, 2019. As some of you may already know, a pastoral search can take well over 2 years. This is why the Executive Council has decided to begin the journey now. In beginning our journey, we have identified a need to update the By-Laws concerning the search process. Members were mailed copies of the current section that will be affected and the proposed change. Copies of both are also available at the church. On **Sunday, October 15**, The Executive Council we will entertain a question and answer session at coffee hour. The congregational will vote on the proposal on Sunday **October 22, 2017**.

Thanksgiving Baskets

Our church coordinates this project on behalf of other participating Norwich area churches, which last year helped 465 families with their Thanksgiving dinners. Of that number, our church put together 200 boxes full of many of the fixings: turkey, carrots, onions, potatoes, stuffing mix, apples, butter, bread.

What We Need From You to Make This a Successful Project:

Canned Soup, Vegetables, Stuffing Mix







Bring in anytime on or before November 6th

Money to help purchase food in bulk. Bring to the church office or put in the offering plate. Just be sure you mark it for Thanksgiving Boxes.

Volunteers Talk to Linda Oehme (336-7716).

Please note: We DO NOT Need Plastic Grocery Bags

For more information, call Linda Oehme at 336-7716.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1 style="text-align: center;">October 2017</h1> 						
<p>1 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship/ Communion / Piano Dedication <i>Neighbors in Need Offering</i> 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers</p>	<p>2 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl 4:00 p.m. Tutoring 5:30 p.m. Tai Chi 7:30 p.m. Monday Evening Musical Club. See p.14.</p>	<p>3 1:00 p.m. TNT Quilters 4:00 p.m. M. Conant</p> 	<p>4 2:30 p.m. A. Humer 11:00 a.m. M. Conant 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>5 4:00 p.m. M. Conant</p>	<p>6 <i>Deadline for Thanksgiving Basket Referrals</i></p>	<p>7 11 a.m. Blessing of the Animals at St. Paul's</p>
					<p>Quilt Show October 6 - 8. See p. 12</p>	
<p>8 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Handbells</p>	<p>9 Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day Church Office Closed</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Tutoring 5:30 p.m. Tai Chi</p>	<p>10 1:00 p.m. TNT Quilters 4:00 p.m. M. Conant</p>	<p>11 9:30 a.m. CAM Meeting, Homer 2:30 p.m. A. Humer 11:00 a.m. M. Conant 12:30 p.m. Clergy/UCCNY staff Meeting, Homer 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Chenango Change 7:00 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>12 4:00 p.m. M. Conant 6:00 p.m. Piecemakers</p>	<p>13 7:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>14 3:00 p.m. Wedding of Allyson Morehead and Milo Hedlund</p> 
<p>15 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship <i>Paper Products Sunday</i> 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour - Q&A session - see p. 7. 11:30 a.m. Handbells 3:00 p.m. Pastor Joe at Chenango Valley Home 4:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting</p>	<p>16 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl 4:00 p.m. Tutoring 5:30 p.m. Tai Chi 7:00 p.m. Executive Council Meeting</p>	<p>17 9:00 a.m. Head Start Policy Council 1:00 p.m. TNT Quilters 4:00 p.m. M. Conant</p>	<p>18 2:30 p.m. A. Humer 11:00 a.m. M. Conant 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m. Democratic Committee</p>	<p>19 4:00 p.m. M. Conant 6:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group</p>		<p>21</p>
<p>22 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship <i>By-Laws Vote</i> 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Handbells 4:00 p.m. SAME Meeting</p>	<p>23 4:00 p.m. Tutoring 5:30 p.m. Tai Chi</p>	<p>24 1:00 p.m. TNT Quilters 4:00 p.m. M. Conant 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>25 2:30 p.m. A. Humer 11:00 a.m. M. Conant 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>26 4:00 p.m. M. Conant</p>	<p>27 9:00 a.m. Label October Newsletter</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>Pastor Joe at MESA Conference - October 23 - 25</p>						
<p>29 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:00 a.m. Congregational Budget Meeting 11:30 a.m. Handbells</p>	<p>30 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl 4:00 p.m. Tutoring 5:30 p.m. Tai Chi</p>	<p>31 Halloween 1:00 p.m. TNT Quilters 4:00 p.m. M. Conant</p> 	<p>1 All Saints Day 2:30 p.m. A. Humer 11:00 a.m. M. Conant 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>2 4:00 p.m. M. Conant 4:00 p.m. Norwich Interfaith Council Mtg.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> 

Project Safe Sleep

Purchasing a crib can be a financial hardship for low income families, but a crib is the safest place for an infant to sleep. Between 2005 and 2013, 32 out of 53 infant deaths in our region were due to inappropriate bedding. *Project Safe Sleep* was formed by Chenango County Public Health Nursing and several Norwich churches in 2011 to provide free, safe sleeping places for infants in Chenango County. The project's initial funding came from United Church of Christ, Broad Street United Methodist Church, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Emmanuel Episcopal Church and continues to be funded by the RC Smith Foundation. The UCC handles the purchases of the cribs and Public Health Nursing receives referrals and delivers the cribs. To date *Project Safe Sleep* has provided 188 safe, portable cribs to low-income Chenango County families.



Mobility Management of South Central New York (MMSCNY)

MMSCNY is a program of the Rural Health Network of SCNY that seeks to improve transportation access and coordination in South Central New York, with particular regard to the area's rural communities. MMSCNY operates the **Getthere Call Center** to assist people throughout the region and beyond. **Getthere** is staffed Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Call 1-855-373-4040.

Getthere offers no-cost transportation assistance, including information and education, trip planning, and referral services. Additionally, individuals with an expressed financial need can get help accessing health-related services through a separate program called **Connection to Care**, or **CTC**. For qualifying individuals with no other options, **CTC** can help offset transportation expenses through fuel cards, volunteer drivers, public transportation, or private transportation providers, like taxis. **CTC** utilizes the lowest cost option or combination of options that is appropriate to the individual's specific need.

Confirmation

Confirmation is neither a Sacrament nor is it a rite of passage for teens. Confirmation is a Rite of the Church by which and through which an individual might engage and strive to mature in faith through study and prayer. Given that, most people 30 to 40 years old or older should be involved in the process of Confirmation every 15 to 20 years. Equally, if an adult has never gone through the process of Confirmation it is recommended to help one mature in faith. *Again note: Confirmation is not simply a rite of passage for teens.*

A Confirmation group is scheduled to be working through this process during the course this church year. The Rite of Confirmation will be celebrated on Pentecost Sunday, May 20th 2018. Anyone 30 to 40 who is willing to engage in this work and, thereby, strive to mature in faith and is interested in entering this process should see Pastor Joe.



2017 Flu Clinics Coming to a Fire Station Near You!!!



Strike Out Against Flu!

DATE/ TIME/ LOCATION:

10/05/2017—South Otselic Firehouse	2:30—4:30 pm
10/12/2017—Norwich Firehouse	6:00—8:00 pm
10/17/2017—Oxford Firehouse	5:00—7:00 pm
10/24/2017—Bainbridge Firehouse	5:00—7:00 pm
10/30/2017—Sherburne Firehouse	5:00—7:00 pm

For more information or questions and to register for the Clinic that you wish to attend, please call 337-1660.

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.

October 1- 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

October 8 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

October 15 - 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

October 22 - 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

October 29- 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

Delightful Designs - 2017 Quilt Show

at The Major's Inn, Gilbertsville, NY

Featured Quilter: Elena Marin

Special Feature Room - Piecemakers

Friday and Saturday, October 6 & 7 – 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, October 8 – 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Admission \$5

Lunch available for \$7



Yo

Getthere
Mobility Management of South Central New York

Your health and well-being is important!
Having difficulty getting to your
healthcare appointments?

Call the **Getthere Call Center**
for transportation information. Ask
about **Connection to Care**.

**Connection
to Care**

1-855-373-4040
Monday – Friday 7:00 am – 7:00 pm

Mobility Management of South Central New York is a program
of the Rural Health Network of South Central New York

Rural Health Network
of South Central New York, Inc.

FOOD PANTRY SUNDAYS

We can take your donations in the church office anytime we are open, but the following are designated Sundays when there will be a basket in the Nave on Sunday morning to put your items in.

Food Collection Sunday - October 1

Soups, canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, peanut butter, canned tuna, and spaghetti sauce are items they can always use.

Paper Products Sunday - October 15

Personal hygiene products, soap, razors, shampoo, toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste. *We will also take donations of disposable diapers for First Baptist Church's Fourth Saturday Diaper Give-away.*

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.

Bulletins from Other Churches

Mary and Pete Williams - Colonia Park United Church of Christ, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, August 27, 2017

Congratulations to Bonnie Carpenter

Bonnie Carpenter was featured as a "Super Senior" in the September 2017 edition of *Albuquerque, The Magazine*. The article is posted on the bulletin board in the Founders' Room.

Monday Evening Musical Club
presents

Rick Pedro, Piano

Monday, October 2 at 7:30 p.m.
In our Nave

Admission is free.
Offering taken to benefit scholarship fund.
Public welcome. Refreshments following.

Happy Birthday October

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).

3	Leona Tyler	16	Tim Burgher
5	Carol Sands		Justin Posner
6	Pat Evans	17	Kristin Metz Miller
	William Kolb	19	Paul Flores
8	Shea Breese	20	Julie Gonzalez
9	Josiah Tyler		Debra Phelps
10	Kyle Conant	21	Jennifer Mallozzi
11	Jessie Brewer	23	Mary Musson
	Carol Nassar	24	Sarah Adams
12	Destinie Smith	26	David Hall
13	Katie Izzo	28	Doris Graves

Our Daily Bread Food Pantry

Located at Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Hours: Mon., Wed. Fri.—10:00—12:00
Mon. & Wed. reopens at 3:30—5:00 p.m.

Note: In case you missed the monthly *Visitors to Our Church* section, we didn't forget. No visitors signed the attendance pads last month.

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



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STANDARD A
PERMIT 24
NORWICH NY 13815

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Ministers: **All the People**
Pastor and Teacher: **The Rev. Mr. Joseph Connolly**
Moderator: **Robert Oehme**
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**