UCC News

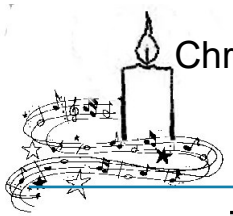
December 2019

a just world for all
ucc.org

Sunday, December 8
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Vote on the 2020 Budget

Sunday, December 15
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Music Sunday

Sunday, December 22
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Intergenerational Sunday



Sunday, December 24
Christmas Eve Service - 5:00 p.m.
Prelude starts at 4:45 p.m.
Nursery available.

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United Church of Christ, First Congregational

11 West Main St. Norwich NY 13815 607-334-3434
www.uccnorwichny.org
Rev. John Steitz, Interim Pastor

facebook

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.

WORSHIP SERVICE: Sunday, 10:00 a.m. (Nursery provided)

From the Pastor

Rev. John Steitz

Who is Pastor John?

- Born in the Hudson Valley.
- Raised in the Hudson Valley and on Long Island.
- Oldest of four. Brother Jim is a plumber and his wife Lee is a teacher. Sister Christina is a teacher and her husband Lada is a banker. Sister Karen is a nurse and her husband teaches plumbing and a/c-heating at SUNY Delhi.
- My wife Catherine is a former Methodist pastor.
- Catherine has two adult children – David, a chef in New York City and Annie, a program coordinator for disabled adults in Montgomery County, PA.
- Lisa and Penny are Annie's daughters. Lisa is a high school senior. Penny is in kindergarten.
- I'm very close to my granddaughters, although Penny would never admit this.
- Before becoming a pastor I was a peace and justice organizer with the Movement for a New Society and the Fellowship of Reconciliation.
- I've been working to end gender-based violence for 40 years.
- UCC Norwich is the 15th congregation I have served.
- I've been trained by the Interim Ministry Network and in Appreciative Transitional Ministry.
- At the Center for Justice and Peace-building at Eastern Mennonite University I have taken a half dozen courses in conflict transformation.

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THE CHRISTMAS FUND

for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

Offering received December 22 and December 24

Sermon Notes

November 17

Walter Wink - *The Powers That Be*

Shiree Teng and Sammy Nunez - *Measuring Love on the Journey for Justice*

November 24

Christa Tinari - *Positive Emotions in the Classroom*

Christa Tinari - *Gratitude should be more than a thank you.*

The Deacons
invite you to join them
Saturday, November 30
at 10:00 a.m.
Decorate Trees - Hang Garland
String Lights
Everyone is Welcome!

Food Pantry Sunday- December 1

Bring in boxes and cans of food for donation to Our Daily Bread Food Pantry.

Paper Products Sunday - December 15

Bring in paper products and personal care items for Our Daily Bread Food Pantry. Donations of diapers for the First Baptist Church Diaper Give-away are also welcome.

From the Board of Deacons

DEACONS FUND - How can we help our neighbors in need? Consider making a recurring or one-time donation to the Deacons Fund using the envelopes in the pews. Every dollar goes toward helping our neighbors!

DEACON BOOK BOX - The Deacons thank you for your book donations. The Book Box is currently at capacity, so we are not accepting book donations at this time. We will let you know when we will be accepting books again. Be sure to visit the book rack in the Founder's Room and put a donation in the can. Every dollar goes to help our neighbors in need. Thank you.

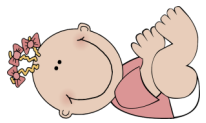
Sing Out & Celebrate
December 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Broad St. United Methodist Church

Celebrate the reason for the season with anthems performed by area church choirs, handbell music, traditional Christmas Carols, and of course, the Hallelujah Chorus!

Please bring a canned or dry food item for the local food pantries. A free-will offering for the local food pantries will be collected, and a time of refreshments will follow.

FBC Diaper Give Away



Volunteers are always welcome to help with First Baptist Church's Fourth Saturday Diaper Give-away. The number of families needing help increases each month. We are always in need of diapers, pull-ups and wipes. The wipes are available at the Dollar Tree Store for $1 a pack. Volunteers are needed and welcome. Call the church office at 336-2509 if you are interested in helping. Our next distributions will be held on Saturday, November 23 and December 28, 9-11am.

Poinsettias

Poinsettias will be used in decorating the church from December 15 through Christmas Eve. You have the opportunity to provide one in memory or honor of someone. Please return this form to the church office by December 11th and indicate if you want to purchase one or if you will bring one in.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

I would like to dedicate a poinsettia
(circle one) IN MEMORY or IN HONOR of:

_____

_____

_____

Choose one:

- ❑ Please bill me $11.50
- ❑ Payment enclosed
- ❑ I will bring in a poinsettia.

Choose one:

- ❑ The Deacons can give my plant to a homebound person.
- ❑ I will pick up my plant after the Christmas Eve Service.

MITTEN TREE - After **November 30** place your donations of NEW MITTENS, HATS, GLOVES , SCARVES and SOCKS on the Mitten Tree anytime the church is open. Items are given to the Perry Browne school nurse for children who need them to stay warm during the coming months.

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **Advent 1 - Hope** 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship *Communion, Food Donation Sunday* 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	2 12:00 p.m. Tutoring, Kitchen 3:00 p.m Tai Chi, Founders' Rm. 5:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Education, Founders' Rm. See p. 9. 6:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting	3 1:00 p.m. Quilters, Kitchen 4:00 p.m. Conant Lessons 	4 9:30 a.m. Catholic Charities, Chapel 3:00 p.m. Devine Lessons, upstairs 7:00 p.m. Chenango Change, Founders' Rm. 7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave	5 10:30 a.m. Tai Chi 10:30 a.m. Oehme Lessons, Nave 12:00 p.m. Tutoring Kitchen 12:30 p.m. Conant Lessons, upstairs	6	7 12:30 p.m. Monday Evening Musical Club Christmas Luncheon, Founders' Rm.
8 **Advent 2 - Peace** 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship *Congregational Budget Vote* 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 1:30 p.m. Pastor John at Chenango Valley Home	9 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl, Chapel 12:00 p.m. Tutoring, Kitchen 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Rm.	10 1:00 p.m. Quilters, Kitchen 4:00 p.m. Conant Lessons 7:30 p.m. Mid York Concert Band. See p. 8.	11 9:30 a.m. Catholic Charities, Chapel 3:00 p.m. Devine Lessons, upstairs 7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave	12 10:30 a.m. Tai Chi 10:30 a.m. Oehme Lessons, Nave 12:00 p.m. Tutoring Kitchen 12:30 p.m. Conant Lessons, upstairs 6:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Founders' Rm. 7:00 p.m. Hospice Tree Lighting. See p. 9.	13 	14
15 **Advent 3 - Love** 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship *Music Sunday* *Paper Products Sunday* 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 7:00 p.m. Sing Out & Celebrate. See p. 4.	16 12:00 p.m. Tutoring, Kitchen 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Rm. 	17 9:00 a.m. Head Start Policy Council, Founders' Rm. 1:00 p.m. Quilters, Kitchen 4:00 p.m. Conant Lessons	18 9:30 a.m. Catholic Charities, Chapel 3:00 p.m. Devine Lessons, upstairs 7:00 p.m. Democratic Committee, Founders' Rm. 7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave	19 10:30 a.m. Tai Chi 10:30 a.m. Oehme Lessons, Nave 12:00 p.m. Tutoring Kitchen 12:30 p.m. Conant Lessons, upstairs 6:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group Founders' Rm.	20	21
22 **Advent 4 - Joy** 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship *Intergenerational Sunday* 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	23 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl, Chapel 12:00 p.m. Tutoring, Kitchen 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Rm.	24 **Christmas Eve** 4:30 p.m. Prelude, Nave 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service, Nave	25 **Christmas Day** *Church Office Closed* 1:00 p.m. Free Christmas Dinner- See p. 8.	26 *Church Office Closed* 	27	28 9:00 a.m. Fourth Saturday Diaper Project, First Baptist Church. See p. 4.
29 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	30 12:00 p.m. Tutoring, Kitchen 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Rm.	31 **New Year's Eve** 1:00 p.m. Quilters, Kitchen 4:00 p.m. Conant Lessons	1 **New Year's Day** *Church Office Closed*	2	3 9:00 a.m. Put together January Newsletter	4

*The Chenango Muslim Community meets upstairs daily at 9:30 p.m. and every Friday at 1:30 p.m.

Coat Rack at Broad Street UMC

The BSUMC is collecting clean jackets or coats for their free coat rack. Many people come in our churches who need a warm coat. Please take donations to the BSUMC church office, 74 N Broad St., Norwich.

The Bandera Family
FREE Christmas Dinner

Wednesday, December 25 - 1:00- 4:00 p.m.
American Legion, Sheldon St., Norwich

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

www.banderachristmas.com or 607-231-0706

Alzheimer's Association:
Effective Communication Strategies

Monday, December 2, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
United Church of Christ, Norwich
Registration required – 315-472-421 x227

Communication is more than just talking and listening – it's also about sending and receiving messages through attitude, tone of voice, facial expressions and body language. As people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias progress in their journey and the ability to use words is lost, families need new ways to connect. Join us to explore how communication takes place when someone has Alzheimer's, learn to decode the verbal and behavioral messages delivered by someone with dementia, and identify strategies to help you connect and communicate at each stage of the disease.

Light up a Life
Hospice Memorial Tree Ceremony
Honor your loved one this holiday season
Thursday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m.
NBT Bank Lobby, 52 South Broad St.
Music from the NHS Madrigal Choir

Transition Committee

Linda Oehme, Chair

Pastor John Steitz began his Interim position on November 1st. Pastor will be meeting with the Transition Team and will be helping us develop a plan to move forward in our search for a settled pastor. Again, we ask for prayers as we continue to develop our church profile and to see what the future has for us. Be patient… this all takes time… and lots of prayers. We will keep you informed as to our progress. This is very new to all of us.

Children and Youth Ministries

Linda L. Oehme, Director

Sunday School returned to the normal time of 8:30 a.m. on November 10th. for both children and adults. The adult class is continuing to read and discuss, *Practicing the Way of Jesus* as suggested by Pastor John. Elizabeth Barber-Breese has been doing a wonderful job facilitating that class! Again thank you, Elizabeth!!! Come and join us!

On December 1, the children will begin Unit 3, *Come Journey with Us*. Each year as we begin the season of Advent, we are aware that we are on a 4-week journey to Christmas Day. The scripture passages give a strong sense of pilgrimage. We have chosen to focus on Isaiah's visions of God's realm of *Shalom* for our lessons during Advent. When people set out on a journey or pilgrimage, they usually have a clear goal or destination in mind, which helps them continue when the going gets rough. Isaiah's visions gave hope to the people of his day during times of military conflict and exile, and they offer us renewed vision and hope on our pilgrimage. In each of the journeys we will study, people were not traveling alone. It was a family, a faith community, and many nations who journeyed together acknowledging God's presence with them… and with us!

Our next Inter-generational Worship will be on December 22 during our regular worship. Anyone interested in participating, please contact Linda or Jen and we will make sure you get a part. This year will be a lot of fun with a special guest appearing. Be sure to join us during this joyous time of the year.

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Do you know of someone in our community who is housebound or hospitalized and would enjoy a visit from a member of our congregation? If you know of anyone or are interested in visiting please contact Elizabeth Bronson through the Deacon Board.

Prayer Concerns

Let us keep in our prayers the following concerns:

- families, 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.
- the Transition Team

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO:

Todd Bachman and **Elizabeth Bronson** for the death of Todd's mother **Sheila Bachman** on November 5, 2019.

The family of **Joan Phetteplace**, who died on November 11, 2019.

December Birthdays

Please call the church office with additions or corrections.

2 Pat Whitmore
3 Pete Williams
10 Bonnie Carpenter
11 Judy Smith
12 Jamie Maholchic
15 Ruth Tucker
16 Vicki Gray
J. R. Hamilton
18 Margaret Burke
19 Marissa Phelps
27 Mary Carson

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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Ministers: **All the People**
Pastor: **Rev. John Steitz**
Moderator: **Jamie Maholchic**
Director of Children/Youth Ministries: **Linda Oehme**
Director of Music Ministries: **Mary Williams**
Financial Secretary: **Donna Wood-Craig**
Parish Coordinator: **Cheri Oakley**
Counselor, Family Counseling Ministry: **Joanne Ferguson**