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for all
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UCC News

November 2019

FREE
Community Thanksgiving Dinner
Turkey and All the Trimmings
Thanksgiving Day - November 28th
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
37 West Main St., Norwich

One seating at 12:00 noon in the Parish Hall

Home Deliveries (2 mile radius of Norwich)

Take Out: 11:15 - 11:45 a.m.

For delivery, take-out or reservations, call 334-8801 by 11/26.

Call the Emmanuel Church office to donate pies or volunteer - 334-8801. Donations of homemade or store-bought apple and pumpkin pies are welcome. Deliver pies to the Emmanuel Parish Hall on Wednesday, 11/27 by 2:00 p.m.



A monthly publication of

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.- 3:30 p.m.

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

From the Pastor

Rev. Dr. David J. Spiegel, Sr.

Along with my pastoral responsibilities I am also the Spiritual Care Coordinator for Hospice and Palliative Care of Chenango County. Most people have a basic understanding that hospice care centers around helping people with a terminal diagnosis to live out the remainder of their life in a way that allows them to be comfortable. We like to say that a big part of our job is helping people live their lives as fully as they can. You might wonder what I do as a spiritual care provider that helps people in this regard. I do whatever I can to help people connect to what gives them spiritual strength. Since most of my patients are protestant I use the same pastoral care techniques and strategies that I use as a church pastor. Some of my patients have different religious practices. My job when it comes to helping them again is to connect them to what gives them spiritual strength and or comfort. Sometimes this means I contact another spiritual provider in the community, sometimes it means we sit and have a conversation. There are even times when they do ask about my faith practices, and then I simply share some of my story. When anyone engages in spiritual care it can be emotionally draining and at times quite difficult. I wrote this next paragraph after a particularly difficult weekend.

As a hospice spiritual care provider death is not unexpected or unfamiliar. It is a very present reality that shows itself to us to be at times overwhelming and unrelenting. As professionals we help others deal with both the anticipation and the aftermath. We talk about grieving strategies and spiritual foundations for understanding and processing death. We pray with people, we talk with people, we laugh with them and at times we cry with them. We look for the words necessary to help others and often agonize that those words don't always come easily if at all. We may offer a pat on the back or even a hug that we know cannot take the place of an embrace from the loved one that has died. We see, hear and even feel the pain that others are

experiencing. Then we return to our homes or our offices, to our families or to our co-workers and we wait for the next time we are called on. We walk dangerously around the traps of cynicism and callousness that can come with our close and repeated contact with death. In the end we go on with the knowledge that we have been given a gift. The gift of interacting with the sacred dance that occurs in the spaces between life and death.

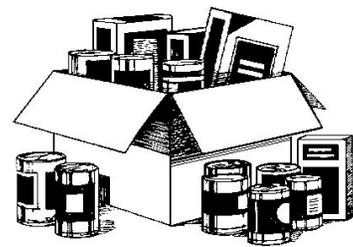
Providing pastoral care is a gift and I am grateful that I have the opportunity to share in this task no matter where it takes place in our community. Caring for one another is a biblical mandate that calls for all of us to care for each of us as best we can.

for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. Matthew 25:35-36

Take time to care for one another!

Stuffing Sunday November 3rd

Bring in boxes of stuffing to include in the Thanksgiving Boxes. (Stuffing will also be accepted any time the church office is open.)



Paper Products Sunday November 17th

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.

Transition Committee

by Linda Oehme

OUR WAIT IS OVER! If you are reading this, then Pastor John Steitz has arrived. Interim Pastor John began his adventure with us on November 1st. We welcome him and can't wait to continue on our Stepping Stones journey. The Jewish word Shalom means "farewell/good bye and/or "hello". The "Shalom" service is on November 3rd. It's the time for us to say farewell and to thank Pastor David and the members of First Baptist Church for all the love and support they have so generously given to us and to welcome John into our congregation and to the community. We will keep you informed as we continue on the journey!

Monday Evening Musical Club

Members & Music Teachers

Monday, November 4 - 7:30 p.m.

in our Nave

Open to the public.

Free will donation for scholarship fund.

From the Turkey Lady

Linda Oehme

Gobble, Gobble, GOBBLE! The boxes have landed in the Chapel...all 200! The food will be ordered next week and volunteer sign up sheets are in the bulletins and this newsletter. Check out the additional opportunity to help take the boxes to their next location -- the Founders' Room -- on Sunday, (24th) after church. And don't forget that after the boxes are filled on Monday evening, we will be celebrating with pizza and salad. Yum! Of course, we always need help with the distribution of the baskets. It's so much fun to provide to those less fortunate and to make a difference in those families lives... even if only one person shows gratitude, it's all worth it!!!!

Thanksgiving Volunteer Sign Up

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Sunday, November 24th

after church Move boxes from Chapel to Founders' Room

Monday, November 25th

4:30 p.m. Assemble the Thanksgiving Boxes. Pizza and salad to follow.

Tuesday, November 26th

8:00 a.m. Meet at the church to pick up turkeys from Walmart

9:30 a.m. Unload turkeys
Add turkeys, margarine, and bread

12:30 - 6:00 p.m. Distribute Boxes *

5:15 - 6:00 p.m. Make calls to families who haven't picked up

6:30 p.m. Move unclaimed boxes to Nave

*Linda Oehme will contact volunteers to schedule shifts.

**Give this form to Linda Oehme
or leave in the church office.**

Helping Hands

by Ericka Tyler, on behalf of the Deacons

The Deacons are excited to announce our plan to participate with a new organization called Helping Hands. Helping Hands is a group of individuals from our own community that is dedicated to assisting the homeless and less fortunate in our area. You may have noticed the *Sock it to 'Em* insert in the bulletin on 11/3 and 11/17. The challenge to collect new socks was proposed to the Deacons from representatives of Helping Hands. We, along with other local churches, accepted that challenge. All of the socks donated will be given away to those in need during the first Helping Hands community event to be held on January 16, 2020! The Norwich YMCA has generously offered the use of its Community Room and tables on that day, and on the 3rd Thursday of each month thereafter. It is the hope that individuals and groups from the community will be moved to donate various needed items and volunteer to pass out those items during each monthly event. The items will vary each month, as may the donors and volunteers.

You may be wondering, “What can I do to help?” The answer is simple:

1. Pray. Pray for those people who will be helped by this new resource. Pray for those who will donate items and volunteer their time to pass out donations each month.
2. Donate items! Some ideas include non-perishable food items, toiletry needs, clothing (hats, mittens, scarves, etc.). You can also donate baked goods or even bring sandwiches to pass out! Be creative! The goal is to help those in need by providing a wide variety of items each month.
3. Show up to the Norwich YMCA on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. to volunteer to pass out your items OR simply drop them off if you are unable to volunteer.

As a representative of the UCC Deacons, it is my plan to be at the YMCA each month to help pass out items. If you would prefer, you can give your items to me before the 3rd

Thursday of each month. Please see me during Sunday services to coordinate a time and place! OR, you can choose to join me at the YMCA and help to pass out your donations.

Together with other Helping Hands members, we can assist individuals and families in our community by working to lessen their burden. The items we provide will vary each month, but the simple act of giving something to others (including our time and energy) shows them that there are people who support and care about them. How will you help us with this mission?

For general questions regarding Helping Hands OR if you would like to volunteer, email
<HelpingHandsNorwich19@gmail.com>



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.

November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 All Saints Day 1:30 p.m. Muslim Community 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	2 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community <i>Daylight Savings - Turn the clocks back one hour tonight.</i>
3 10:00 a.m. Worship/ Communion Stuffing Sunday 11:00 a.m. Pot Luck 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	4 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Rm. 4:00 p.m. Tutoring, Kitchen 7:00 p.m. MEMC Meeting 7:30 p.m. Music Teachers and Members Recital. See p. 4. 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	5 1:00 p.m. Quilters 4:00 p.m. Conant Lessons 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	6 9:30 a.m. AARP Driver Training, Founders' Rm. 9:30 a.m. Catholic Charities, Chapel 3:00 p.m. Devine Lessons 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Nave 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	7 10:30 a.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Rm. 10:30 a.m. Lessons, Nave 12:30 p.m. Conant Lessons 6:00 p.m. Mediation, Chapel 6:00 p.m. Bandera Family Dinner meeting, YMCA. See p. 15. 9:30 p.m. Muslim	8 1:30 p.m. Muslim Community 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	9 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community
10 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	11 Veteran's Day Church Office Closed 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Rm. 4:00 p.m. Tutoring, Kitchen 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	12 1:00 p.m. Quilters 4:00 p.m. Conant Lessons 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	13 9:30 a.m. Catholic Charities, Chapel 3:00 p.m. Devine Lessons 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Nave 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	14 10:30 a.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Rm. 10:30 a.m. Lessons, Nave 12:30 p.m. Conant Lessons 6:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Founders' Rm. 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	15 1:30 p.m. Muslim Community 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	16 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community 
17 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Enlistment Sunday 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	18 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Rm. 4:00 p.m. Tutoring, Kitchen 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	19 9:00 a.m. Head Start Policy Council 1:00 p.m. Quilters 4:00 p.m. Conant Lessons 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	20 9:30 a.m. Catholic Charities, Chapel 3:00 p.m. Devine Lessons 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Nave 7:00 p.m. Democratic Committee 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	21 10:30 a.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Rm. 10:30 a.m. Lessons, Nave 12:30 p.m. Conant Lessons 6:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group, Founders' Rm. 9:30 p.m. Muslim	22 1:30 p.m. Muslim Community 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	23 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community 9:00 a.m. Fourth Saturday Diaper Project, FBC
24 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship/ Bell Choir 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	25 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl 4:30 p.m. Filling Boxes 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	26 8:30 a.m. Turkey pickup 1:00 p.m. Hand out Thanksgiving Boxes 4:00 p.m. Conant Lessons 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	27 9:30 a.m. Catholic Charities, Chapel 3:00 p.m. Devine Lessons 6:30 p.m. Chenango Change, Founders' Rm. 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	28 Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed 9:00 a.m. Burke Dinner, Founders' Rm. 12:00 p.m. Free Dinner at Emmanuel Episcopal Church. See front cover. 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	29 Church Office Closed 1:30 p.m. Muslim Community 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community	30 9:30 p.m. Muslim Community 

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Children and Youth Ministries

by Linda L. Oehme, Director

Mid-October, we began our second unit titled *Learning the Way*. Prayer is a strong emphasis in this unit, growing out of the scripture passages. Prayer is an important means of “learning the way” and an important part of the work of justice. Prayer nourishes both a deeper spirituality and a greater commitment to justice.

Over the past few decades, the practice of prayer in homes has been diminishing. Fewer children experience grace at meals or bedtime prayers. Time for personal meditation has been pretty well squeezed out of our busy lives. We will be talking to the children about prayer and offer some prayers that could be used at home. The most important part is helping children (and adults) realize that prayer is a conversation with God like with your best friend— you share your feelings and concerns, and thank God for listening and loving you regardless. One does not need to be kneeling or have their eyes closed to have such a conversation. It can be anytime, anywhere— playing on a swing, driving a car (my favorite place), walking home. We all need to increase our practice of prayer, and are encouraged to give it particular emphasis in our own lives—and maybe a new habit will grow from it!

Sunday School will return to the normal time on November 10th at 8:30 a.m. Sunday mornings 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! Thank you, Elizabeth!!! Come and join us!



HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Broad Street United Methodist Church
74 N. Broad St., Norwich

Friday, November 15, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday November 16 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Unique Gifts and Decorations, Bakeshop.

Letters

Dear UCC,

I would like to thank you for the Theron and Margaret Hust scholarship for the third year in a row. Each year I have received it, it has helped me drastically with funding for my college. I would also like to thank you for the additional scholarship from the Theodore P. Dolgos scholarship. This additional scholarship will help fund required textbooks for each of my classes. This is a big help in my college career. As of this point in college at SUNY Cobleskill I have learned a lot. Being a Fisheries and Aquaculture major, I enjoy class every day. Thank you again for the help in funding my college expenses. It's a huge help!

Keegan Prime

Dear UCC,

We wanted to thank you for your donation. It is only through the continued support of people like you in our community that this program can provide the full range of services needed to support Hospice patients and their families through a difficult time. As the demand for Hospice services continues to grow, your contribution enables us to provide compassionate and quality care to terminally ill patients in our community, regardless of ability to pay. Your generosity is very much appreciated. It reflects the true spirit of "Neighbors caring for Neighbors." It is the spirit that underlines the true meaning of Hospice Care.

Lindsay O'Donnell
Operations Manager
Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango County



Christian Enlistment

Dear Friends,

In our minds, stewardship in this church is really about two things. The first is about the responsible supervision of the Church's assets both from a physical perspective in regards to the buildings and infrastructure, as well as the financial resources. The second is about our ability to help people who are in need. Help can look like so many different things. From programs like Sunday school and Bible Study, to supporting the Food Pantry, youth development programs at The Place, Scholarships for students, the Crib and Diaper Projects, as well as financial support for unique hardship cases routinely supported from the Deacon's Fund. This is a partial list and I can go on and on as to the "help" supplied by our Church.

Over the years we have heard Pastor Joe speak on justice and God's justice. We have had several conversations on this topic to help with the understanding of exactly what justice really means. **Stewardship is about justice - God's justice.** What is God's justice? God's justice sees a world where no one is in need. God's justice sees a world where each person is free from need, empowered to fully become who they are. So, with this being said, it is the season of stewardship.

In past years we have supported a program at the Baptist Church (with whom our church has shared a 200+ year relationship of cooperative ministry) which distributes diapers. For the last few Stewardship seasons the Deacons have donated a package of diapers for every \$500 in pledges and/or donations. Since this proved to be successful and well received, the diapers for dollars program will be part of our stewardship campaign this year. We see this program as empowering the Church to do God's justice. This promotion will help people in need but this is but one of many needs in our community. Even if you don't usually pledge you might want to make a donation (no matter how large or small) since it may help buy yet another package of diapers.

At this time we would like thank you for your past pledge and to ask you to consider your contribution plans for 2020. We would suggest each of us give prayerful consideration for the level of our contribution to support the work of God's justice.

This is a personal decision for each and every one of us and only you can determine the adequate level of contribution for your particular circumstance.

Finally, there is only one more thing to mention. It's the practical stuff. Enlistment Sunday is November 17th and pledge cards will be available at the service. Pledge cards are also available at the church office. We ask that the office receive pledge cards by December 6th so the Trustees can prudently work toward finalizing a budget.

The bottom line is simple. **The work of helping people is the work of justice.** We ask that you participate in work of justice by making a pledge and/or a donation.

Thank you.



Chris Mallozzi
Chair
Enlistment Campaign



Pete Williams
Chair
Board of Trustees

Holiday Wreaths to Support The Place

\$26.00

Pre-Order by November 8th.
Pick Up starting November 18th



Fraser Fir wreaths (25" tip to tip)
from Pires Flowers Basket and Decorated by the Place.

Order forms available in the church office or contact The Place at 336-9696
ext. 103 or execdirector@theplacenorwich.com.

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:

Ginnie Helton, our former church organist, for the loss of her husband **Earle Helton** who died on August 14, 2019. The loved ones of **Gordon Comstock, MD** who died on October 25, 2019. Gordon was the medical director of the UCC New York Conference Mission NY/HELP Honduras.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Cheri Willard and **Kevin Oakley** who were married on October 12, 2019.

Laura Wade who will be ordained at the Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church on November 2, 2019.

Joanne Ferguson who will be ordained into Christian Ministry at the East Side UCC, Binghamton on



Visitors Last Month

Wendy Stanton, Oneonta

Rev. Tom and Pat Olson, Norwich

Volunteers Needed

Are you interested in positively impacting people's lives including your own? The Bandera Family Free Christmas Dinner will be held **Wednesday, December 25, 2019**. The Bandera family will host a free dinner at the American Legion Post 189, 29 Sheldon Street from 1p.m. to 4 p.m. with home deliveries available. The Bandera family has been doing this dinner for over 20 years in Binghamton and Endicott. This will be the second year in Norwich. Please visit their website to learn more about their history and how you can help @ www.banderachristmas.com . **There will be a Community Meeting again this year on Thursday November 7th at the YMCA, 6:00 p.m.**



November Birthdays

Please call the church office with additions or corrections.



**Happy
Birthday**

- 2 Pat Flores
- 5 Bob Bartlett
- 7 Nancy Lawrence
- 11 Darcy Gates-Brewer
Terry Hagenbuch
- 14 Vincent Mallozzi
- 18 Matt Maholchic
- 24 Alexander Gage
Milo Hedlund
- 29 Taylor Hagenbuch



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

STANDARD A
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NORWICH NY 13815
PERMIT 24

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Ministers: **All the People**
Interim 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**