

Now the *church*  
is the body of  
**Christ**, and  
**each**  
**one**  
of you  
*is a*  
*part.*



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
Norwich, New York 13815**



**An Open and Affirming Church**

**September 19, 2021**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Return to In-Person Worship**

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***PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD***

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE**

*Little Prelude and Fugue in C Major*

J.S. Bach

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Little children, the one who welcomes you is here in word and bread and wine. Little children, young and old, all the baptized: welcome to the place of hope. Little children, Jesus calls us all into the circle of his arms. Come.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**INVOCATION**

**OPENING HYMN**

*Lead Us From Death to Life* (#581)

By Marty Haugen, 1985

Tune: WORLD PEACE PRAYER

by Marty Haugen, 1985

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Large Print Bulletins are available from the usher.

## TIME OF SHARING

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

The Lord's Prayer

### PASTORAL BLESSING OF PEACE

#### OFFERTORY PLEDGE

ONE: We love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

**ALL: We pledge our whole selves to God.**

ONE: We love our neighbors as ourselves.

**ALL: We pledge to do justice as Christ's ambassadors of reconciliation.**

ONE: We love one another as Jesus loves us.

**ALL: We pledge to be and become Christ's Beloved Community in our life together.**

ONE: We make disciples by teaching and modeling how to follow Jesus' Way of Love.

**ALL: We pledge to be Jesus' disciples sharing Jesus' Way of Love in the way we live our lives and practice our faith.**

*We will not be passing the offering plates.  
Instead, they are located at both doors for your  
convenience as you enter or exit the Nave.*

### WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

#### SCRIPTURE READING James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

<sup>13</sup> Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup> Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup> For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup> And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

[4] Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within

you? <sup>2</sup> You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet<sup>□</sup> something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

### **SCRIPTURE READING** Mark 9:30-37

<sup>30</sup> They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup> for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." <sup>32</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup> Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup> But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup> Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

### **ANTHEM** *The Church of Christ In Every Age* (#306)

Words Fred Pratt Green, 1969

Tune: WAREHAM by William Knapp, 1738

The church of Christ, in every age  
beset by change, but Spirit led,  
must claim and test its heritage  
and keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street,  
the victims of injustice cry  
For shelter and for bread to eat,  
and never live before they die.

Then let the servant church arise,  
a caring church that longs to be  
A partner in Christ's sacrifice,  
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

## SERMON

### *RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD*

INTERLUDE *Eight Interludes, No. 2*

Eric H. Thiman

#### **AFFIRMING OUR FAITH**

*United Church of Christ Statement of Faith  
in the form of a doxology*

ONE: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,

**ALL: God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:**

ONE: You call the worlds into being,

**ALL: create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

ONE: You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

**ALL: You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.**

ONE: In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot,

**ALL: conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.**

ONE: You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,

**ALL: creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

ONE: You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others,

**ALL: to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.**

ONE: You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,

**ALL: courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

ONE: Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.

**ALL: Amen.**

**SHARING OF JOYS/CONCERNS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

**CLOSING HYMN**

*You Are Salt for the Earth, O People (#181)*

Paraphrase by Marty Haugen, 1986

Tune: BRING FORTH by Marty Haugen, 1986

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Fanfare for a Festive Occasion*

Lani Smith

*Please remain seated until the usher dismisses you.*



Watch a live stream of our service Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
at [www.uccnorwichny.org/live-stream/](http://www.uccnorwichny.org/live-stream/).

Past worship services can be viewed at  
[www.uccnorwichny.org/sermons](http://www.uccnorwichny.org/sermons)

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### ***Question for Reflection***

Give yourself some moments each day in the coming week to sit quietly with your eyes closed. Visualize Jesus kneeling down, opening his arms, and bringing you close to his heart. Let yourself be a little child who is welcomed. What do you notice?

### ***Household Prayer: Morning***

Gracious God, you give life and, in your Word, it is beautiful. Thank you for this new day.

In each coming hour, help me to see beneath the ever-present difficulties and superficial joys into the mysteries that you have set out for your people.

Guide me toward those I meet today in a way that welcomes them and, in turn, grants me a welcome, in Jesus' name. Amen.

### ***Household Prayer: Evening***

This day is nearly over, Merciful God, and I am tired.

I have been unable to do all that I had hoped;

I have done some things I would take back if I could.

Forgive me for my failures.

Bring me into the warmth and security of your embrace now, and fill me with new vision

so that I may rest and rise to meet tomorrow with vigor, in the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:**

9/22 Pat Burke

9/23 Arlene Wade

9/24 Henry Carpenter

9/25 Gary Sprout

### **ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**

John Kolb and Lilit Danielyan – 9/23/08 – 13 years

**FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR** are needed for worship starting September 26<sup>th</sup>. If you would like sign up to provide flowers, please contact the church office.

**THE ONA YOUTH GROUP** will meet in the Founders' Room today at 1:30 p.m. For details, please contact Jason Handy.

**LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR** - Join us on Mondays to show our support, love and affirmation of those in the LGBTQ+ community by posting a rainbow selfie on your social media account with *#rainbowmondays*.

**WE SUPPORT MUSIC EDUCATION** – If you need help affording music lessons, consider applying for a Music Scholarship. Applications are available from the church office. For more information, talk with Meena Conant, Music Committee Chair.

**THE DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES** is Friday, September 24.

**IF YOU NEED HELP** with something, please reach out to the church office, a Deacon or Pastor John. We're here to help each other.

**LINKS TO OUR WEEKLY ONLINE ACTIVITIES**

Below are direct links, meeting IDs and the passwords. If you have internet access, click the link or go to <zoom.us> and "Join a Meeting".

**If you don't have internet: Call (929) 205-6099 to join as a conference call:**

- At the prompt you will need to enter the Meeting ID, followed by #. We do not have Personal ID numbers, so if asked for that, simply press #.
- Then enter the Passcode when requested.

**Children's Sunday School – Sundays at 9:00 a.m.**

See Linda Oehme to join.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85403683361?  
pwd=cnlmaCszOXlGM0wzSTlSQWdUUmFnUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85403683361?pwd=cnlmaCszOXlGM0wzSTlSQWdUUmFnUT09)

Meeting ID: 854 0368 3361      Passcode: fun!

**Prayer Circle - Monday Wednesday Friday at 10:00 a.m.**

[https://zoom.us/j/92884666522?  
pwd=S1hPV0hldkNzdjdIVUkwVU5aSSStHUT09](https://zoom.us/j/92884666522?pwd=S1hPV0hldkNzdjdIVUkwVU5aSSStHUT09)

Meeting ID: 928 8466 6522      Passcode: 012772

**Zoom Choir - Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.**

Contact Mary Williams to join.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85730904447?  
pwd=bXZxcDgzN2M2TWxMU3ZUMGdiZXR6dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85730904447?pwd=bXZxcDgzN2M2TWxMU3ZUMGdiZXR6dz09)

Meeting ID: 857 3090 4447      Passcode: sing



## **CALENDAR**

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**

- 1:30 p.m. ONA Youth Group, Founders' Rm.
- 3:00 p.m. ONA Community Group, Founders' Rm.

### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry, Kitchen
- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle on Zoom
- 1:30 p.m. K. Given Tutoring, kitchen
- 2:00 p.m. E. Fischer Lessons, upstairs
- 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Rm.
- 6:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting, on Zoom

### **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

- 1:00 p.m. Quilting Circle, Kitchen

### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle on Zoom
- 3:30 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal on Zoom

### **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

- 7:00 p.m. Executive Council Meeting, on Zoom

### **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

#### **Deadline for newsletter articles.**

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, on Zoom
- 3:30 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs

### **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, on Zoom
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave

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

## **CHENANGO COUNTY COVID-19 NUMBERS**

	This week (9/15)	Last week (9/9)
Active Cases	97	99
Quarantines	190	179
Hospitalizations	4	8
Deaths	82	82

**CHENANGO CO. VACCINATION RATE** (people 18+)  
as of 9/14/21 – 67.7% with at least one dose

## **VACCINATION INFORMATION**

**Walgreens in Norwich** - 334-2265

**Check with Chenango Memorial Hospital** - 337-4888

**The Chenango County Health Department** –

visit <[www.co.chenango.ny.us/public-health/nursing](http://www.co.chenango.ny.us/public-health/nursing)> or call for  
an appointment - 337-1660

**Tuesday September 21** - 1<sup>st</sup> Dose Moderna Vaccine (18+)

**Tuesday September 21** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Dose Pfizer Vaccine for Moderately to  
Severely Immunocompromised

You can also check with your health care provider and the local  
pharmacy websites to locate other vaccination clinics with  
available appointments.

Clinics and other local sites are now listed on [vaccine.gov](http://vaccine.gov)

NYS Am I eligible site: [https://am-  
eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/](https://am-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/)

Or call 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829)

If you need a ride to a free ride to a vaccine appointment, contact  
Get There at 855-373-4040. Referrals are not needed.

**TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS IN MINISTRY OF SERVICE:**

Ushers/Greeters: **Pete Williams, Bob Oehme  
Linda Oehme**  
Interim Pastor: **Rev. John Steitz**  
Liturgist: **Mary Williams**  
Organist: **Jason Handy**  
Director of Music Ministries: **Mary Williams**  
Director of Children's/Youth Ministries:  
**Linda Oehme**  
Sunday Sexton: **Shea Breese**  
Live Stream: **Jen Mallozzi, Chris McSweeney**

*The flowers are given by Pat Burke.*

**MINISTERS:** All the People

**INTERIM PASTOR:** Rev. John Steitz, 215-820-1650 (cell)

**MODERATOR:** John Kolb

**CHAIR OF DEACONS:** Mary Williams

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES:** Mary Williams

**ORGANIST:** Jason Handy

**DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S/YOUTH MINISTRIES:** Linda Oehme

**PARISH COORDINATOR:** Cheri Oakley

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANT:** Jennifer Mallozzi

**FAMILY COUNSELING MINISTRY:** Joanne Ferguson, 244-0896

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS - By appointment only.**

**CONTACT:**

**Address:** 11 West Main St., Norwich NY 13815

**Telephone:** 607-334-3434

**E-mail:** office@uccnorwichny.org

**Web site:** www.uccnorwichny.org

**facebook**

# Covid-19 Safety Protocols

(September 2021)

- Face coverings will be required upon entry and exit to the building. (Masks will be available.)
- Social distancing of 6 feet (minimum) will be observed at all times.
- Physical contact with those outside of your household should be avoided.
- Everyone will be required to check in for attendance with the usher upon arrival.
- Please consider coming early to allow time for signing and for a slower entry into the Nave due to social distancing.
- At this time we are not able to accommodate childcare for children of any age. Children will remain in the Sanctuary and are asked to stay seated with their family/household.
- Seating in the Nave will look very different. Our ushers may assist in seating you. Please keep in mind that you may not be able to sit in the pew you are accustomed to and that your seat may change from week to week.
- The bulletins will contain everything you will need to follow along with the service (scripture, hymns, readings etc). They will be located in the pews and will be an indication as to where you can sit upon entry into the Nave.
- Currently, due to State and Conference guidelines, we will be unable to sing along with the hymns, but we do encourage you to hum along with them.
- Passing of the peace will be suspended at this time.
- Hearing assistive devices will be available for those that need them. You will receive the headset in a bag. Please write your name on the bag and store the headset in the same bag for use during future services.
- Offerings will be collected by placing your envelope in an offering plate upon exiting the Nave.
- Once the service is over, we will leave the building in an orderly manner to allow for social distancing. The ushers will dismiss the congregation row by row.
- Coffee Hour and other such gatherings will remain suspended until further notice.
- One person at a time will be allowed in the restrooms (unless family group).
- Hand sanitizing stations are located near the Nave entrance hall and in each pew. Please wash your hands or use sanitizing stations frequently.
- We ask that if you are not feeling well and /or may be exhibiting cold or flu-like symptoms, that you refrain from attending until you feel better.
- Prayer requests can be emailed to the church office by Friday. On Sunday morning, we will utilize the prayer basket for prayer requests.