



United Church of Christ  
First Congregational  
Norwich, New York



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



**An Open and Affirming Church**

**October 17, 2021**

**10:00 a.m.**

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***PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD***

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE**

*Nobody Knows The Trouble I've Seen*

Robert W. Thygerson

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**ONE:** Praise the Lord, for God is great indeed!  
Let us sing praises for God's glorious works.

**ALL:** **We give glory, honor, and thanksgiving to the  
Lord,  
who makes and sustains all things.**

**INVOCATION**

**OPENING HYMN** *God of Change and Glory (#177)*  
Words and Music by Al Carmines, 1973  
Tune: KATHERINE

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Large Print Bulletins are available from the  
ushers.

## TIME OF SHARING

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

The Lord's Prayer

### PASTORAL BLESSING OF PEACE

ONE: May the Peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

### 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 Mark 10: 35-45

<sup>35</sup> Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask."

<sup>36</sup> "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

<sup>37</sup> They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."

<sup>38</sup> "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?"

<sup>39</sup> "We can," they answered.



Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with,<sup>40</sup> but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.”

<sup>41</sup> When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. <sup>42</sup> Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>43</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

**SCRIPTURE READING** Psalm 104: 1-9, 24, 35c

Praise the LORD, my soul.

LORD my God, you are very great;

you are clothed with splendor and majesty.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD wraps himself in light as with a garment;

he stretches out the heavens like a tent

<sup>3</sup> and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters.

He makes the clouds his chariot

and rides on the wings of the wind.

<sup>4</sup> He makes winds his messengers,

flames of fire his servants.

<sup>5</sup> He set the earth on its foundations;

it can never be moved.

<sup>6</sup> You covered it with the watery depths as with a garment;

the waters stood above the mountains.

<sup>7</sup> But at your rebuke the waters fled,

at the sound of your thunder they took to flight;

<sup>8</sup> they flowed over the mountains,

they went down into the valleys,

to the place you assigned for them.

<sup>9</sup> You set a boundary they cannot cross;

never again will they cover the earth.

<sup>24</sup> How many are your works, LORD!

In wisdom you made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures.

<sup>35c</sup> Praise the Lord!

## **ANTHEM**

*Spirit of Comfort, Spirit of Hope* Words by Douglas Nolan  
Music by David Angerman  
and Douglas Nolan

Lord, You are God, in the tempest and the gale.  
Lord, You alone are God and Your mercies never fail.  
For Your love is everlasting And Your peace can calm our  
fears,  
Lord, Your grace is like an ark sailing through a sea of tears.

Spirit Holy, come and fill this house with grace.  
Spirit, Worthy, we are one in Your embrace.  
Spirit, come inhabit all our praise.  
As we worship and we pray, help us Lord, to find our way.  
Spirit, come renew our hearts to day.

Spirit, Holy, You are faithful, You are true.  
Jesus, Worthy, all our joy begins with You.  
Spirit, come empower all we do.  
Make this church a welcome place  
filled with mercy, love and grace.  
Spirit, come refresh our faith today.

Come, Spirit, shower us with promise and with love.  
Restore our lives, refresh our faith.  
Stretch out Your rainbow of assurance before us.  
Descend with power. Descend with power.  
Descend with power on this place.

Spirit, Holy, come and fill this house with grace.  
Spirit, Worthy, we are one in Your embrace.  
Spirit, come inhabit all our praise.  
Breathe in us a mighty wind;  
help this church to live again.

Spirit, come restore our hope today.  
Spirit come restore our hope.  
Spirit, come refresh our faith.  
Spirit come renew our hearts today.

## SERMON

### ***RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD***

INTERLUDE *Legacy of Grace*

By Ben Logan

#### **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**

*(Joys and prayers requests should be written on the prayer slips as you enter the Nave prior to the start of worship.)*

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers (#397)*

Roger Powell (1914-2003)

Tune: PLEADING SAVIOR, 1831

## **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Sunday Joy!*

By Mark Hayes

*Please remain seated until the usher dismisses you.*

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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)

### *Questions for Reflection*

What can you do to seek God's wisdom? How can you be a better servant?

### *Household Prayer: Morning*

Gracious God,  
keep me humble throughout the day.  
Help me to seek your wisdom  
as I stand in service to others.  
In your name I pray. Amen.

### *Household Prayer: Evening*

Loving God,  
thank you for keeping me today.  
Thank you for the awesome works you have blessed my eyes to see.  
Continue to bless my community and me throughout the night.  
In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:**

17 Kristin Metz Miller  
19 Paul Flores  
20 Julie Gonzalez  
Debra Phelps  
Mya Yantz  
21 Jennifer Mallozzi

**SIGN UP-** If you would like to offer the altar flowers, or be an usher, greeter, or liturgist please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway, or contact Mary Williams or the church office. Thank you.

**SHARING OF JOYS/CONCERNS** - Please fill out the prayer request form in the hallway as you enter the Nave prior to the service.

**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*.

**SEVERE STORM RELIEF FUND** - More than 20 U.S. states from the South to the Northeast are reeling from the impact of Hurricane Ida and its sizeable remnants, which left catastrophic water and wind damage, including significant power outages. And hurricane season is far from over. Our Deacons invite you to give to the UCC 2021 Severe Storms Appeal. Donations can be made out to UCC Norwich, with "Disaster Relief" in the memo. Thank you.



**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.

**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.

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

	This week (10/12)	Last week (10/5)
Active Cases	135	112
Quarantines	314	295
Hospitalizations	4	5
Deaths	86	85

**CHENANGO CO. VACCINATION RATE** (people 18+)  
as of 10/5/21 – 69.3% 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

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://amieligible.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 GetThere at 855-373-4040. Referrals are not needed.

## **CALENDAR**

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School, on Zoom  
10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave  
1:30 p.m. ONA Youth Group, Founders' Rm.  
1:30 p.m. ONA Parent Group, Nave

### **MONDAY, OCTOBER 18**

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.

### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19**

1:00 p.m. Quilting Circle, Kitchen  
7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting on Zoom

### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20**

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle on Zoom  
3:30 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs  
6:00 p.m. Democratic Committee, Founders' Rm.  
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal on Zoom

### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21**

6:30 p.m. Piecemakers Circle, Kitchen

### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22**

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

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**

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.*

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

Usher:	<b>Pete Williams</b>
Greeter:	<b>Chris Mallozzi</b>
Interim Pastor:	<b>Rev. John Steitz</b>
Liturgist:	<b>Brad Morrison</b>
Organist:	<b>Jason Handy</b>
Director of Music Ministries:	<b>Mary Williams</b>
Director of Children's/Youth Ministries:	<b>Linda Oehme</b>
Sunday Sexton:	<b>Shea Breese</b>
Live Stream Committee:	<b>Jen Mallozzi, Chris McSweeney</b>

Flowers are 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

**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](mailto:office@uccnorwichny.org)

**Web site:** [www.uccnorwichny.org](http://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 entering or 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.
- Disinfection Plan: our Custodian will disinfect all high touch surfaces, including rest rooms and seating areas, before and/or after weekly services.