

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 3, 2021

10:00 a.m.

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Little Prelude and Fugue in G Major*
J. S. Bach

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: To my sisters and brothers I will tell your glory:

ALL: O Lord our God, how majestic is your name!

ONE: In the great congregation I will sing your praise:

ALL: O Lord our God, how majestic is your name!

INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN *God is Working A Purpose Out*
Martin Shaw, 1915
alt. J. Connolly, 2011

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

TIME OF SHARING

INSTALLATION OF JASON HANDY AS ORGANIST

AN AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRY

ONE: Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts and celebrates a particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world.

ALL: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

ONE: There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

ALL: The church is like a single body, which has many parts. It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

ONE: The Apostle Paul made the comparison that the church is the body of Christ.

ALL: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness. All of us are Christ's body, and each a part of it.

COVENANT

COVENANT OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

We commit to creating and maintaining a Christ centered community that nurtures and values each member and fosters our spiritual growth. We assume personal responsibility to use our personal and collective talents and resources to reach out to each other, the wider community and the world.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

PASTOR: May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for the ministry of Organist in Christ's church at United Church of Christ, Norwich, and equip you with everything good to do God's will. Receive authority to execute the office of organist in the name of Christ.

ALL: Amen.

UNISON PRAYER

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus, the Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may strive to be the faithful church of Jesus, who is the Christ. Amen.

DECLARATION

ONE: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of United Church of Christ, First Congregational of Norwich NY, I rejoice to announce: You are installed as Organist.

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD! We extend to you our hands in Christian love with our applause.

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(Communion elements can be picked up where you signed in.)

INVITATION:

ONE: In Luke's Gospel we read that Jesus, at the table with two of the disciples, took bread and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them, and their eyes were opened, and they recognized the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

In the Acts of the Apostles we read that as the church was gathered, often in the homes of the believers, Christians devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and community, to the breaking of bread, and to prayers.

ALL: Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, we gather at your table to know you in the breaking of the bread.

COMMUNION PRAYER

ONE: Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for revealing your will for us in the giving of the law and in the preaching of the prophets.

ALL: We thank you especially that in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live in our midst, to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved.

ONE: We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave you raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your realm.

ALL: We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world and through which we share the gift of eternal life. With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name: Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.

ONE: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

ALL: In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

ONE: Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things. In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, eternal God, and give thanks that you have called us to serve you. Amen.

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth Your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 100

- ¹ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
² Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
³ Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
⁵ For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Chorale*
Bob Oehme, organ

Joseph Jongen

SERMON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE

RECOGNITION OF BOB OEHME'S MUSIC MINISTRY

MOMENT OF SHARING

TESTIMONIALS AND SLIDE SHOW

PRESENTATION

PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

SHARING OF JOYS/CONCERNS

(Please use the Prayer Request forms found in the hallway on the way into the Nave for your joys and concerns. They should be filled out prior to the service.)

PASTORAL PRAYER

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

When in our Music God is Glorified (#561)

Fred Pratt Green, 1972

Tune: ENGLEBERG, by Charles V. Stanberg 1904

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Alleluia Postlude*

Esther Megargel

Please remain seated until the usher dismisses you.

Questions for Reflection

We were created to live in relationship—with neighbors, friends, loved ones, and above all with God. Think about the relationships in your life.

Where do you find help and partnership (Gen. 2:18)?

Where do you feel the strain of separation (Mark 10:9)?

Who do you allow to get close to you, and who do you turn away (Mark 10:13–16)?

In what ways do those relationships reflect your relationship with God?

Household Prayer: Morning

Lord Jesus, my brother,
bone of my bone,
stand with me this day,
and let me walk with you
all my life. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord Jesus, my brother,
flesh of my flesh,
stay with me this night,
and let me rest with you
in eternal life. Amen.

Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #735996-A. All rights reserved.

Prayers reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion* © 2015

Watch a live stream of our service Sundays at 10:00 a.m. at
www.uccnorwichny.org/live-stream/.

Past worship services can be viewed at www.uccnorwichny.org/

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3

9:00 a.m. Sunday School, on Zoom

10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave - Communion

Installing Jason Handy, Organist

Recognizing the Ministry of Bob Oehme,
Organist Emeritus

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4

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.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

1:00 p.m. Quilting Circle, Kitchen

7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle on Zoom

3:30 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal on Zoom

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, on Zoom

3:30 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

9:00 a.m. Sunday School, on Zoom

10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave - Neighbors in Need Offering

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

LINKS TO OUR WEEKLY ONLINE ACTIVITIES

Below are direct links, meeting IDs and the passwords. If you have internet access, 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.

Meeting ID: 854 0368 3361 Passcode: fun!

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

Meeting ID: 928 8466 6522 Passcode: 012772

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

Contact Mary Williams to join.

Meeting ID: 857 3090 4447 Passcode: sing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

- 3 Leona Tyler
- 6 Pat Evans
William Kolb
- 8 Shea Breese
- 9 Josiah Tyler

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

Terri & Jason Yantz 10/09/2004 - 17 years

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR - If you would like sign up to provide flowers, please contact the church office.

COMMUNION ELEMENTS can be picked up where you signed in.

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*.

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 (9/29)	Last week (9/22)
Active Cases	108	138
Quarantines	272	344
Hospitalizations	2	7
Deaths	84	83

CHENANGO CO. VACCINATION RATE (people 18+)
as of 9/29/21 – 68.5% 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> 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

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 Get There at 855-373-4040. Referrals are not needed.



Did you know that approximately **17 people per 10,000** experience homelessness each day?

Neighbors in Need Offering Sunday, October 10, 2021

Envelopes will be in the bulletins.

“With 552,830 US individuals living in a state of homelessness, things are just not looking great. Still, it is a small percentage compared to the overall US population — which counts over 327.2 million.” (source: Whitehouse)

As we begin to pivot away from a world too long shrouded under the grip of a pandemic, there will be those whose households were tragically impacted economically. **To that end, 2021 NIN grants will support the needs of the unhoused/homeless.**

For more information visit: <https://nationalhomeless.org/>

With your generous support, the UCC, through the 2021 NIN offering, helps its members live out their beliefs via acts of service.

Two-thirds of your donations to NIN support advocacy, programming, and grants. One-third of your generous gifts directly support CAIM.

 www.ucc.org/nin. **Thank You!**



TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS IN MINISTRY OF SERVICE:

Greeters: **Bob Oehme, Pete Williams**
Usher: **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
Committee: **Chris McSweeney**

The flowers are given by Pat Burke.

Cover drawing by Judy Smith.

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

Web site: www.uccnorwichny.org

facebook

October 3, 2021

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.