

United Church of Christ  
First Congregational  
Norwich, New York



# NEIGHBORS IN NEED



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

**An Open and Affirming Church**

**October 10, 2021**

**10:00 a.m.**

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**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE** *One There Is Above All Others, Robert Wetzlar.  
Tune by Andreas P. Berggren*

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MISSION MOMENT**

Neighbors in Need Offering

**GATHERING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: We gather in the name of God.

**All: The Disabled God, the God of Access, the God of Interdependence, the God whose Differences are Holy.**

ONE: How shall we worship God?

**All: With sound and silence, with raised hands and with stillness, with words spoken and unspoken, with deep thought and the inner movements of our souls.**

ONE: With every limit and ability of our bodies and minds, we will worship.

**All: Praise be to God.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**(THE LORD'S PRAYER, REIMAGINED)**

Our God who is disabled, holy are your differences.

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Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

May your work of inclusion be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Grant us access in all the ways we need.  
And forgive us for excluding others, as we forgive those who exclude us.  
Keep us away from the temptation of believing we are not enough,  
and deliver us from the evils of ableism.  
God, in you we find community, welcome, and belonging;  
now and forever. Amen.

**OPENING HYMN** *O God Our Help In Ages Past (#25)*  
*Isaac Watts, 1719* Tune: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1708

## 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** Psalm 22:1-15

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me,  
so far from my cries of anguish?

<sup>2</sup> My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,  
by night, but I find no rest.

<sup>3</sup> Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;  
you are the one Israel praises

<sup>4</sup> In you our ancestors put their trust;  
they trusted and you delivered them.

<sup>5</sup> To you they cried out and were saved;  
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

<sup>6</sup> But I am a worm and not a man,  
scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

<sup>7</sup> All who see me mock me;  
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.

<sup>8</sup> "He trusts in the Lord," they say,  
"let the Lord rescue him.

Let him deliver him,  
since he delights in him."

<sup>9</sup> Yet you brought me out of the womb;  
you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast.

<sup>10</sup> From birth I was cast on you;  
from my mother's womb you have been my God.

<sup>11</sup> Do not be far from me,  
for trouble is near  
and there is no one to help.

<sup>12</sup> Many bulls surround me;  
strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.

<sup>13</sup> Roaring lions that tear their prey  
open their mouths wide against me.

<sup>14</sup> I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint.

My heart has turned to wax;  
it has melted within me.

<sup>15</sup> My mouth is dried up like a potsherd,

and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;  
you lay me in the dust of death.

## SCRIPTURE READING Mark 10: 17-31

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>18</sup> “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. <sup>19</sup> You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’”

<sup>20</sup> “Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

<sup>21</sup> Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

<sup>22</sup> At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”

<sup>24</sup> The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

<sup>26</sup> The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?”

<sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

<sup>28</sup> Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!”

<sup>29</sup> “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel <sup>30</sup> will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup> But many who are first will

be last, and the last first.”

**ANTHEM** *O Jesus I Have Promised (#493)*

*John E. Bode, 1868* Tune: ANGEL’S STORY, A. H. Mann, 1883

**SERMON**

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

**INTERLUDE** *Penitent Prayer,* Kevin Uppercue

**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** *Take My Life, God Let It Be* (#448)  
*Frances R. Havergal, 1874* Tune VIENNA, Justin H. Knecht,  
1797

## **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* *Victor C. Johnson*

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Watch a live stream of our service Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
and

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Birthdays THIS WEEK:**

10 Kyle Conant  
11 Jessie Brewer  
Carol Nassar  
12 Destinie Smith  
13 Katie Izzo  
16 Tim Burgher  
Justin Posner

### **Anniversaries THIS WEEK**

Cheri & Kevin Oakley 10/12/2019  
Steve & Melissa Emmons 10/15/2016

**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.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE** is closed Monday, October 11 for Columbus Day.

**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.



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

This week (10/5) Last week (9/29)

Active Cases 112 108

Quarantines 295 272

Hospitalizations 5 2

Deaths 85 84

**CHENANGO CO. VACCINATION RATE** (people 18+)  
as of 10/5/21 – 68.9% 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://am.ieligible.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.

**October 10, 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.



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

**Greeters:** Pete Williams  
**Usher:** Chris Mallozzi  
**Interim Pastor:** Rev. John Steitz  
**Liturgist:** Brad Morrison  
**Organist:** Jason Handy  
**Director of Music Ministries:** Mary Williams  
**Director of Children's/Youth Ministries:** Linda Oehme  
**Sunday Sexton:** Shea Breese  
**Live Stream Committee:** 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  
**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)

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