



**There is a  
balm  
in  
Gilead**

**to heal the  
wounded  
soul**



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



**An Open and Affirming Church**

**October 24, 2021**

**10:00 a.m.**

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***PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD***

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE**    *Adoration*

Florence Price

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MISSION MOMENT** – Joan Griffith  
Helping Hands - Sock Box

**GATHERING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: I will bless the Lord at all times,

**ALL: God's praise will continually be in my mouth.**

ONE: My soul makes its boast in the Lord,

**ALL: let the humble hear and be glad.**

ONE: O magnify the Lord with me,

**ALL: let us exalt God's name together!**

**INVOCATION**

**OPENING HYMN**

*My Faith It Is An Oaken Staff* (#418)

Thomas T. Lynch, 1855

Tune: THE STAFF OF FAITH

Swiss folk melody

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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 10:46-52

<sup>46</sup> They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. <sup>47</sup> When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>48</sup> Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>49</sup> Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." <sup>50</sup> So

throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” <sup>52</sup> Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

## **SCRIPTURE READING** Psalm 34:1-8

I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.  
<sup>2</sup> My soul makes its boast in the LORD;  
let the humble hear and be glad.  
<sup>3</sup> O magnify the LORD with me,  
and let us exalt his name together.  
<sup>4</sup> I sought the LORD, and he answered me,  
and delivered me from all my fears.  
<sup>5</sup> Look to him, and be radiant;  
so your<sup>□</sup> faces shall never be ashamed.  
<sup>6</sup> This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD,  
and was saved from every trouble.  
<sup>7</sup> The angel of the LORD encamps  
around those who fear him, and delivers them.  
<sup>8</sup> O taste and see that the LORD is good;  
happy are those who take refuge in him.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**      *There Is A Balm in Gilead*  
Bell Choir                                  Arranged by Ron Mallory

## **SERMON**

### ***RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD***

**INTERLUDE** *Song of Reverence*                  Esther Megargel.

## **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**

*Hear the Voice of God So Tender (#174/332)*

Words by Lavon Bayler, 1987, rev. 1993

Tune: BEACH SPRING

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Lead On Oh King Eternal*

By Henry Smart

Arranged by David S. York

*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/sermons](http://www.uccnorwichny.org/sermons).

Past services are available at the same link.

*Questions for Reflection*

What particular vision do you seek?

What do you want to understand?

And when you do see and understand, how will that knowledge, that insight, pull you closer to following Jesus on the way of faith and of peace?

*Household Prayer: Morning*

Holy Jesus, when I awaken each day,

I long to sing with joy for another span of hours  
to spend in your company.

I long to rejoice that you have placed before me  
the gifts and obstacles the day will bring.

Give me wisdom to enter into each encounter with  
thanksgiving,

for you hold me in your care and give me words,  
in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Household Prayer: Evening*

Ruler of all creation, I thank you for the time of rest  
beginning now,

for all that I have seen, tasted, touched, heard, and smelled  
this day,

and for all the people and creatures whose lives  
have come into my experience.

Bless them with sufficient rest and peace,

that together we may all rise in the morning  
with new strength, in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:**

10/26 David Hall

10/30 Jill 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 Linda Oehme 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.

**CALL TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET INFORMATION MEETING - Sunday, November 7 in the Nave following the worship service. The Trustees will review a draft of the 2022 budget.**

**PASTOR JOHN WILL BE ON VACATION** after the service on October 24 through October 31st. If you need pastoral care, please contact Mary Williams, Chair of the Deacons (607-316-4709) or the church office.

**THANKSGIVING PROJECT DONATIONS NEEDED.** We are gearing up for the annual Thanksgiving meal give-away that we participate in with other local churches. **This year we are looking for donations of non-perishable food (no glass containers)** to include with fixings for a Thanksgiving meal - stuffing, gravy, canned vegetables, soup, cranberry sauce, pie crust mix, pie filling, etc. **Monetary donations are also welcome**, as we will be giving certificates for a turkey or ham. You can bring food donations to the church on Sundays during worship. Donations can be made out to the church with "Thanksgiving" in the memo line. Thank you! The packing and distributing logistics will be different than we used to do and are still being worked out. More to come.



**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 through the end of October. Thank you.

**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 (10/20)	Last week (10/12)
Active Cases	108	135
Quarantines	241	314
Hospitalizations	3	4
Deaths	86	86

**CHENANGO CO. VACCINATION RATE** (people 18+) as of 10/20/21 – 69.6% with at least one dose

## **CALENDAR**

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24**

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

10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave

11:30 a.m. Bell Choir, Chapel

### **MONDAY, OCTOBER 25**

**Deadline for November Newsletter articles.**

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.

6:30 p.m. Town & Country Garden Club, Founders' Rm.

6:30 p.m. Music Committee Meeting on Zoom

### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26**

1:00 p.m. Quilting Circle, Kitchen

7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting on Zoom

### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27**

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 28**

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

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

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31**

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

10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave - Rev. Tom Olson preaching

11:30 a.m. Bell Choir, Chapel

*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: **Linda Oehme**  
Greeter: **Bob Oehme**  
Interim Pastor: **Rev. John Steitz**  
Liturgist: **Brad Morrison**  
Mission Moment: **Joan Griffith**  
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 in honor of  
Jennifer Mallozzi and Justin Posner.  
Happy Birthday!  
from Mom and Dad*

**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**

**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.