

**October 31, 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.



**United Church of Christ, First Congregational  
Norwich, New York**

**October 31, 2021 – In Person and Live Stream**

**Rev. Tom Olson preaching**



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



**An Open and Affirming Church**

**October 31, 2021**

**10:00 a.m.**

***PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD***

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE** *For All the Saints*

*Douglas E. Wagner*

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: The Lord offered himself once and for all—  
so that our conscience can be free from all things  
that lead to death.

**ALL: Let us freely go and worship the living God!**

**INVOCATION**

**OPENING HYMN**

*For All the Saints (#299, v. 1-2)*

*William W. How, 1864*

Tune: SINE NOMINE by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

**TIME OF SHARING**

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

The Lord's Prayer

**PASTORAL BLESSING OF PEACE**

Large Print Bulletins are available from the  
ushers.

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

Usher:	<b>Linda Oehme</b>
Greeter:	<b>Bob Oehme</b>
Preacher:	<b>Rev. Tom Olson</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>

*The flowers are given in honor of  
Paul Flores*

*By Norma Kinney and 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**

## **CALENDAR**

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School, on Zoom  
10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave  
11:30 a.m. Bell Choir, Chapel  
1:30 p.m. Justice team, on Zoom  
3:00 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal, on Zoom

### **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

#### **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.

### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2**

1:00 p.m. Quilting Circle, Kitchen

### **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3**

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, NOVEMBER 4**

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

### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School, on Zoom  
10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave  
11:00 a.m. Budget Meeting  
11:30 a.m. Bell Choir, Chapel  
3:00 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal, on Zoom

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

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** Ruth 1:1-18

**1** In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. **2** The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. **3** But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. **4** These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, **5** both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

**6** Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. **7** So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the

land of Judah. <sup>8</sup> But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.” <sup>9</sup> The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.” Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. <sup>10</sup> They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” <sup>11</sup> But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? <sup>12</sup> Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, <sup>13</sup> would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me.” <sup>14</sup> Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. <sup>15</sup> So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” <sup>16</sup> But Ruth said,  
 “Do not press me to leave you  
 or to turn back from following you!  
 Where you go, I will go;  
 where you lodge, I will lodge;  
 your people shall be my people,  
 and your God my God.  
<sup>17</sup> Where you die, I will die—  
 there will I be buried.  
 May the LORD do thus and so to me,  
 and more as well,  
 if even death parts me from you!”  
<sup>18</sup> When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

## SCRIPTURE READING Mark 12: 28-34

<sup>28</sup> One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; <sup>30</sup> you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than

**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 (10/28)	Last week (10/20)
Active Cases	95	108
Quarantines	287	241
Hospitalizations	4	3
Deaths	86	86

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

Nov. 2 Pat Flores

Nov. 5 Bob Bartlett

**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.

**STUFFING SUNDAY NOV. 7**— We ask that you to bring boxes of stuffing to the church next Sunday for use in the Thanksgiving boxes. A basket will be located at the back of the church.

**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.

these.”<sup>32</sup> Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’;<sup>33</sup> and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”<sup>34</sup> When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

**ANTHEM** *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God* (#295)  
*Lesbia Scott (1929, alt.)*  
Tune: GRAND ISLE by John H. Hopkins (1940)

## SERMON

### RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

**INTERLUDE** *Pastoral Prayer* *Dennis Eliot.*

### 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: SHARING OF JOYS/CONCERNS** (Rev. Olson)

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

**PASTORAL PRAYER** (Rev. Olson)

### COMMISSION AND BLESSING

**CLOSING HYMN** *For All the Saints* (#299, v. 3-5)

William W. How, 1864

Tune: SINE NOMINE by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

[PAUSE]

**BENEDICTION** (Rev. Olson)

Jesus gave us the greatest of the commandments:

Go, loving God with all your being,  
and love one another and the world.

**POSTLUDE** *Toccata in D Minor J.S. Bach*

*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 does it mean to love God with all your heart, mind, and soul and to love your neighbor as yourself?

What can you do to watch out for the oppressed, the widows, the orphans, or people less fortunate?

### Household Prayer: Morning

Loving God,  
help me to live by your commandments  
as I strive to love you and my neighbors with all I have.  
Amen.

### Household Prayer: Evening

Gracious Lord,  
thank you for watching over me throughout the day.  
Help me to meditate on your ways as I rest tonight.  
In Jesus' name. Amen.