

# LOVE THY

ATHEIST | MUSLIM | CHRISTIAN  
GAY | STRAIGHT  
HOMELESS | RICH  
DEMOCRAT | REPUBLICAN  
BLACK | WHITE | BROWN  
MALE | FEMALE

# NEIGHBOR



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



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



**An Open and Affirming Church**

**January 23, 2022**

**10:00 a.m.**

***PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD***

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE**

*Bell Prelude*

Esther Megargel

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: God built the heavens, the earth, and everything in them.

**ALL: God calls us to be builders as well.**

ONE: God calls us to build our lives:

**ALL: to restore broken places and continue to grow.**

ONE: God calls us to build our faith:

**ALL: to study the Word and ponder its interpretation.**

ONE: God calls us to build our community:

**ALL: to build bridges of understanding and systems of justice.**

ONE: God calls us to build history by fulfilling the promises of Scripture:

**ALL: to preach the good of God's love and liberation for all people.**

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**Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.**

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## INVOCATION

### OPENING HYMN

*O For A Thousand Tongues (# 42)*

Charles Wesley, 1740 alt.

Tune: AAZMON C.M.

by Carl G. Gläser, 1828

## 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

### TEACHING THE WAY OF JESUS

## **SCRIPTURE READING** - 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup> whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup> that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup> But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

## **SCRIPTURE READING - Luke 4:14-21**

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup> He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup> When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

<sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*We Are The Body of Christ*

Emily Lund

Elsbeth Hunter, Leona Tyler, soloists

## **INCLUSIVE CHURCH PRAYER**

(based on Luke 4:14-21)

God of freedom, you break the seals and let the Spirit flow:  
make us impatient to greet the time fulfilled. the poor lifted up,  
the oppressed set free and your love made manifest  
in Jesus Christ, the Anointed Servant. Amen.

## **SERMON**

## ***RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD***

## **INTERLUDE**

## **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

*Blessed Be the Tie That Binds (#393)*

John Fawcett, 1782

Tune: DENNIS

Melody by Johann G. Nægeli (c.1768-1836)

Adapt. Lowell Mason, 1845

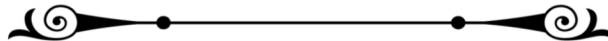
## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*Praise Everlasting*

David Paxton

*Please remain seated until the usher dismisses you.*



### **Bulletin Notes:**

The *Inclusive Church Prayer* comes from *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* by Steven Shakespeare, Church Publishing: New York, 2009.

*Teaching the Way of Jesus* section come from *Youth Ministry as Peace Education* by Elizabeth W. Corrie, Fortress Press: Minneapolis, 2021, and *Teaching the Way of Jesus* by Jack L. Seymour, Abingdon Press: Nashville, 2014.

Watch a live stream of our service Sundays at 10:00 a.m. at  
[www.uccnorwichny.org/live-stream-2](http://www.uccnorwichny.org/live-stream-2)

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MASKS ARE REQUIRED THROUGHOUT THE WORSHIP SERVICES.** In order to reduce the risk of spreading infection, it is important that everyone wear a mask while in the church building, unless speaking from a microphone, singing a solo during worship, or receiving communion.

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

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

	This week (1/18)	Last week (1/11)
Active Cases	210	802
Quarantines	286	1,180
Hospitalizations	2	10
Deaths	100	98

**CHENANGO CO. VACCINATION RATE** (people 18+) as of 1/19/2022 – 74.5% with at least one dose

**SIGN UP FOR GREETER, USHER, LITURGIST OR FLOWERS.** There are many open spots in the upcoming weeks. Look for the updated sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the hallway. Or contact Linda Oehme or the church office. 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.

**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.



**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.

## **CALENDAR**

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

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 23**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School, on Zoom  
10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave

### **MONDAY JANUARY 24**

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, JANUARY 25**

9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Training, Founders' Room  
1:00 p.m. Quilting Circle, Kitchen  
6:30 p.m. Music Committee, Zoom

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26**

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle on Zoom  
3:30 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs  
7:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal

### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 27**

9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Training, Founders' Rm.  
7:00 p.m. Executive Council, Zoom

### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 28**

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

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 30**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School, on Zoom  
10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave

*Question for Reflection*

The Old Testament “year of jubilee” to which Jesus refers in his first sermon—what some have called his “mission statement”—was a time set aside every fifty years to forgive financial debt and redistribute the land among the people. Why do you think God envisioned a year of jubilee, and what might that look like in our world today?

*Household Prayer: Morning*

Holy One, thank you for the gift of this new day.  
Help me to stay attentive to your creation  
and mindful of your teachings  
as I travel through it.  
Empower me to see and spread  
the good news of your grace for all people. Amen.

*Household Prayer: Evening*

Holy One, thank you for the gift of today.  
Thank you for all the ways that I saw your glory  
and learned your teachings,  
beyond speech and words,  
in the course of this day. As I drift to sleep this night,  
draw me closer to you,  
my rock and my redeemer. Amen

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

Interim Pastor: **Rev. John Steitz**  
Director of Music Ministries: **Mary Williams**  
Organist: **Jason Handy**  
Director of Children's/Youth Ministries: **Linda Oehme**  
Sunday Sexton: **Shea Breese**  
Live Stream: **Jennifer Mallozzi, Chris McSweeney**  
Usher: **Ericka Tyler**  
Greeter: **Leona Tyler**  
Liturgist: **Linda Oehme**  
Soloists: **Elsbeth Hunter, Leona Tyler**

**NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 1/30**

Greeter: **Ericka Tyler**  
Usher: available  
Liturgist: **Linda Oehme**  
Flowers: available

***The flowers are given by Pat Burke  
in memory of Doris Graves, my dear  
friend whom I miss very much.***

**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

**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**

**January 23, 2022**

**Covid-19 Safety Protocols** (September 2021)

- Face coverings will be required upon entry and exit to the building. (Masks will be available.) **As of 12/5/21** - masks are required throughout the service, unless speaking from a microphone, singing a solo during worship, or receiving communion.
- 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.