

**A monthly publication of
United Church of Christ, First Congregational
Norwich, NY**

www.uccnorwichny.org



CONTACT US

11 West Main St. Norwich NY 13815
607-334-3434
office@uccnorwichny.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

By appointment only. Please call or email.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays, 10:00 a.m. in the Nave

[Click here for live stream.](#)

[Click here for Covid Safety protocols.](#)

Ministers: All the People
Interim Pastor: Rev. John Steitz
Moderator: John Kolb
Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams
Organist: Jason Handy
Organist Emeritus: Bob Oehme
Children's and Family Ministries: Linda Oehme
Inclusive Church Ministries: Brad Morrison
Parish Coordinator: Cheri Oakley
Financial Assistant: Jennifer Mallozzi
Custodian: Eric Burgher
Family Counseling: Joanne Ferguson

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Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY

April 10 - 10:00 a.m.
In-person and [live-stream](#)

MAUNDY THURSDAY (Communion)

April 14
**[Worship video](#) available on our
website. [Click here](#)**

EASTER SUNDAY

April 17 - 10:00 a.m.
In-person and [live-stream](#)



From the Pastor

Rev. John Steitz

There is an Appreciative Inquiry resource called SOAR that can be very helpful for affirming our gifts and present strengths, and for visioning about the future. This can be used by all kinds of groups, from committees to congregations to families. SOAR stands for Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results. It is an alternative to SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis.

SWOT moves people from strengths to weaknesses, and after looking at opportunities ends with threats. When doing a SWOT analysis people can sometimes take 15 minutes coming up with strengths, and more than an hour making detailed lists of weaknesses. Ending with threats can overwhelm potential opportunities. The SWOT process is defensive.

The SOAR process on the other hand is positive throughout. First, you anchor your inquiry in strengths. **Strengths** asks, “What are we great at?” **Strengths** seeks out the best. “In your experience, what is the best thing about...?”

Then in the second SOAR step you seek to **understand the opportunities that can be built on one’s strengths**. **Opportunities** asks, “What are the possibilities?” **Opportunities** seeks to uncover the potential. “Using our strengths (gifts, resources) as a foundation, what potential might be created or emerge?”

From here one moves to the third step focused on hopes, dreams, and aspirations. **Aspirations** asks, “What do we care deeply about?” **Aspirations** seeks to open us to our deepest hopes and dreams. “Based on the strengths we have and the opportunities before us, what do we most deeply hope will happen?”

Finally, SOAR focuses on results. **Results** asks, “What are meaningful outcomes?” **Results** seeks to keep the process concrete. “What do we need to do to make our hopes and dreams actually happen?”

Now let us apply SOAR to our core value: Spiritually Alive. Here we ask questions related to expressions of loving God with all of strength and being in worship, in prayer, in music, and in spiritual practice.

I’ll give a rough outline, but to do this well requires a small group that moves through the SOAR process together.

*** Spiritually Alive / Loving God with all our strength and being.

When it comes to loving God, in worship, in prayer, in music, and in spiritual practice...

What specific ways are we great at expressing Loving God?
What are our strengths and gifts?
What is your best experience of worship?
What helps you feel most spiritually alive?

When it comes to loving God, in worship, in prayer, in music, and in spiritual practice ...

What are the possibilities for deepening the ways that we express loving God?

What opportunities present themselves to build on our strengths?

What potential ways might help you become more spiritually alive in your life?

When we consider loving God, in worship, in prayer, in music, and in spiritual practice ...

What do we care deeply about?

What hopes, dreams, and aspirations do we have?

What hopes do you have in your spiritual journey?

What inspires you to love God with all your strength and being?

When we think about loving God, in worship, in prayer, in music, and in spiritual practice ...

What would we consider to be meaningful outcomes?

What are the results that we see or feel when we focus on loving God with all of our strength and being?

What realizations about loving God might we have when we are most spiritually alive?

We can do this with each of our four core values. We develop a series of questions to move us through the SOAR process on that core value. As we consider our Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results for each core value, we will develop a deeper appreciation for the gifts we bring, and the hopes we have in living **into God’s call for us in living out our core values.**

We can also use the SOAR process to consider various areas of ministry. For example, we have directors for three ministry areas: music, Christian education, and inclusive church. We can develop a series of questions to move through the SOAR process on each of these. Identifying the Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results for each ministry area can be a spiritual process that deepens our appreciation of the ministry gifts God blesses us with, and calls us to.



PB&J and YOU

The Deacons invite you to join them in **collecting JELLY for donation to Helping Hands**. There is a collection basket in the Nave hallway for your donations through Easter Sunday. Thank you for your help.

Deacons Doings

Mary Williams, Chair

Who's Who on the Board of Deacons?

Mary Williams, Chair

Samantha Gage, Clerk

Norma Kinney, Cheer Writer

Rose Laughlin, Helping Hands

Karen Mallozzi, Prayer Circle

Brad Morrison, Helping Hands

Linda Oehme, Christian Education, Usher/Liturgist coordinator

Jessica Posner, Cheer Writer

Pastor John Steitz

The Deacons meet on the Second Tuesday of each month. One item on the agenda for our April 12th meeting is to brainstorm ways that our congregation can increase its outreach to the community. What ideas do you have? How can we build upon our strengths as a congregation? Please share your thoughts with any Deacon or email the church office.

Core Value: Neighborhood Engagement

Helping Hands: The

Deacons allocate \$150 each month for the purchase of personal care items for the Helping Hands Project.

Deacon Rose Laughlin and Ruth Tucker do the shopping and put together the bags. Deacon Brad Morrison helps with the



Deacon Brad Morrison at the Helping Hands Distribution.



Personal Hygiene bags put together by Deacon Rose Laughlin and Ruth Tucker.

is needed

distribution of items on the give away night which is the Third Thursday of each month (April 21). Currently, we are seeking donations of JELLY which we are collecting through Easter Sunday. (Bring to the church office or to the basket in the Nave hallway). [Helping Hands Norwich has a Facebook page](#) with photos, information, and a link to an Amazon wish list where you can purchase items for the program or get ideas of what

Chenango Valley Home: Our visits to the Chenango Valley Home are scheduled for the following dates: April 10, May 15, and June 19. A 30 minute service will begin at 3:00 p.m. and will feature a brief liturgy, readings, a message from Pastor John Steitz, prayer, and musical selections from one of our musicians.

Core Value: Spiritually Alive

Holy Week Worship Plans:

Palm Sunday- April 10 - 10:00 a.m.

worship service at the church/[Live Stream](#)

Maundy Thursday- April 14

[worship video](#) with communion available on the church website

Easter Sunday- April 17 - 10:00 a.m.

worship service at the church/[Live Stream](#)

In lieu of purchasing Easter Lilies, gifts may be made to the Memorial Fund. Use the insert in the Sunday bulletin, the form below or contact the church office by Friday, April 8.



Easter Memorials

The Deacons have decided to use silk flowers on Easter Sunday so that all may "breathe easy". Donations in honor or in memory of a loved one can be made to the Memorial Gifts Fund and will be listed in the bulletin. Please use this form to make your donation.

DONATE TO THE MEMORIAL FUND

\$_____ (checks payable to UCC Memorial Fund)

PLEASE FILL IN FOR BULLETIN LISTING:

In memory of / in honor of (circle one)

or other message: _____

NAME: _____

Please return this form to the church office
no later than Friday, April 8th.

Search Committee

The Search Committee is continuing to make progress in finding our next settled pastor. This month, a second interview was held with one of the applicants. The in-person interview was incredibly informative; we asked detailed questions and responded to questions asked of us. The next step will be to develop a compensation package to share with the Executive Committee. At that point, we will be ready to make an offer when the time is right. Thank you all again for your continued prayers.

Search Committee Members:

Elizabeth Barber-Breese, Pat Burke Samantha Gage, Jason Handy, Miranda Hunter, Norma Kinney, Jane Prime, Pete Williams

Children and Family Ministries

Linda Oehme, Director

As we approach Holy Week, we need to be mindful of how we speak with children about Jesus' death. The significance of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is a great mystery that has preoccupied the hearts and minds of Christians for centuries. How can we tell the story Easter without overwhelming children with images that glorify violence and suffering? How can we speak of death and crucifixion as part of the good news of the Gospel?

When we speak with children about the crucifixion, it is important to emphasize that Jesus was killed by his enemies, NOT BY GOD. We also need to be very careful that we avoid giving the impression that "the Jews" killed Jesus. Jesus was a Jew, and his first followers were Jewish men and women, and the early believers worshiped in the Temple and in synagogues. It was people with religious and political power within Jesus' society who felt threatened and subsequently condemned him.

It is helpful to emphasize Jesus' course and faith, when speaking to children about the crucifixion. Jesus trusted God and advocated for the poor and powerless, despite the threats of the powerful leaders. In the resurrection, we are reassured that God's love can overcome even the bad things that people do to one another. Therefore, we are able to proclaim the good news that people do to one another. We are able to proclaim the good news that "In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us."

We are working on Vacation Bible School and hoping to be in person this summer. There will be an organizational meet in April. Watch for details in the weekly announcements.

Music Ministries

Mary Williams, Director

Core Value: Spiritually Alive

Handbell Ringers: a special thank you to our ringers who provided special music throughout Lent. We are back in rehearsals to prepare for performances in May.

Combined Choirs:

The choirs of UCC and Broad Street United Methodist have enjoyed singing together for over 18 years and it all started on a Palm Sunday when the congregations came together for a combined service with a procession of palms. We hope that next year we will be able to continue this tradition. Our musicians have maintained the spirit of ecumenism during the pandemic times by using technology to create virtual choir anthems. This year, the choirs will perform "A Palm Sunday Hosanna" and "Resurrection Victory". Musicians scheduled to participate:

Sopranos

Pat Burke
Meena Conant
Jessica Posner
Jessica Hoople
Elspeth Hunter
Liam Hunter
Deb Sanderson
Ericka Tyler
Leona Tyler

Tenors

Jason Handy
Michael Moren
Brad Morrison
Pete Williams

Basses

David Burch
Craig Lawson
James Moren
Bob Oehme

Altos

Megan Carpenter
Bonnie Connolly
Miranda Hunter
Joyce Lawson
Jennifer Mallozzi
Donna Moren
Linda Oehme
Mary Williams

Jason Handy, accompanist
Bill Pomares, flute
Gregg Norris, trombone
Amy Hoxie, trumpet






Inclusive Church Ministries


Brad Morrison, Provisional Director

The LGBTQ+ Forum on Zoom is moving to Sunday evenings starting April 3rd at 6:00 p.m. The meetings will be weekly, continuing into the foreseeable future. This is a fellowship group for members and supporters of the LGBTQ+ community. For more information, talk to Brad Morrison or contact the church office.

April 2022



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| The Norwich Muslim Community meets upstairs daily at 9:00 p.m. and on Friday afternoons. | | | |  | 1 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:30 p.m. J. Handy Lessons | 2 |
| 3 9:00 a.m. Sunday School , Zoom 10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion Nave & Live-Stream 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Forum, Zoom. | 4 9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Prep 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 1:30 p.m. Tutoring, upstairs 2:00 p.m. E. Fischer Lessons 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Mayflower Rm. 7:00 p.m. Music Club See p. 6. | 5 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers Circle, Kitchen 6:30 p.m. Music Committee on Zoom | 6 9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Prep 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:30 p.m. J. Handy Lessons 7:00 p.m. Choir, Zoom | 7 9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Prep 7:00 p.m. Inclusive Church Committee, Zoom | 8 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:30 p.m. J. Handy Lessons Deadline for Easter Memorials. | 9  |
| 10 Palm Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, Zoom 10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave & Live-Stream 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Forum, Zoom. 3:00 p.m. Service at Chenango Vly. Home | 11 9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Prep 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 1:30 p.m. Tutoring, upstairs 2:00 p.m. E. Fischer Lessons 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Mayflower Rm. | 12 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers Circle, Kitchen 7:00 p.m. Deacons, Zoom | 13 9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Prep 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:30 p.m. J. Handy Lessons 7:00 p.m. Choir, Zoom | 14 Maundy Thursday Worship Video available 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers Mtg., Founders' Rm. | 15 Good Friday 9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Prep 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:30 p.m. J. Handy Lessons Deadline for UCC Scholarship Applications. | 16 Holy Saturday  |
| 17 Easter Sunday  9:00 a.m. Sunday School, Zoom 10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave & Live-Stream | 18 <i>Church Office Closed</i> 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 1:30 p.m. Tutoring, Kitchen 2:00 p.m. E. Fischer Lessons 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Rm. | 19 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers Circle, Kitchen | 20 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:30 p.m. J. Handy Lessons 6:00 p.m. Democratic Comm., Founders' Rm. 7:00 p.m. Choir, Zoom | 21 6:30 p.m. Helping Hands monthly give-away at YMCA 6:30 p.m. Piecemakers Circle, Kitchen 6:30 p.m. Executive Council, Zoom | 22 Earth Day 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:30 p.m. J. Handy Lessons 4:00 p.m. EV Show and Earth Fair - see p. 6. | 23 |
| 24 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, Zoom 10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave & Live-Stream 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Forum, Zoom. | 25 10:00 a.m. Worship Planning Meeting, Zoom 10:00 p.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 1:30 p.m. Tutoring, kitchen 2:00 p.m. E. Fischer Lessons 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Rm. | 26 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers Circle, Kitchen 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, Zoom | 27 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:30 p.m. J. Handy Lessons 7:00 p.m. Choir, Zoom | 28  He is Risen! | 29 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:30 p.m. J. Handy Lessons | 30 9:00 a.m. Diaper Give- away at First Baptist Church 10:00 a.m. Susquehanna Association Spring Meeting. See p. 6. |



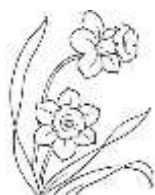
SUSQUEHANNA ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL SPRING MEETING 4/30/22

Saturday April 30th at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom.
QUORUM IS REQUIRED

[REGISTER TO RECEIVE ZOOM LINK AND REPORTS](#)

Please RSVP before April 26th by
clicking [HERE](#) or call 607-722-1017



EV Show and Earth Fair on Earth Day

Friday April 22nd
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Friends of Rogers Environmental
Education Center, 2721 State Route 80,
Sherburne NY

This is a Free Family Friendly event!

Come talk with electric vehicle owners showing their cars and ask all your questions about driving electric vehicles in Central NY. This event will also feature EV dealers in the area, vendors that specialize in Mycology, Natural Crafts, The Chenango Bird Club, SUNY Morrisville Faculty from the Renewable Energy and the Environmental Sciences Departments, Livingston Energy Group, and more.

Jenni Larchar, of Jenni's Music, will be playing songs and entertaining the little ones and we will have a Kids craft area. Crafters that use natural and recycled materials will be on site as well. Food will be available to purchase. Everyone is welcome to bring their EV to show, talk to interested attendees about your EV, and give rides, depending on COVID-19 safety restrictions as the event gets closer.

If you have an Electric Vehicle, Hybrid or e-bike please click this link to [Register to attend](#).

Drive Electric Earth Day is presented by Plug In America, the Electric Vehicle Association, the Sierra Club, and EVHybridNoire.

Monday Evening Musical Club

Celebrating 112 Years

**Area Music Teachers and
Club Members
performing
Live and Virtually**



**Monday, April 4, 2022
7:00 p.m.**

United Church of Christ,
11 West Main St., Norwich NY

Livestream at: www.facebook.com/MondayEveningMusicClub

Free will donation to benefit the scholarship fund.

Quarantine and Isolation Calculator

The [CDC Quarantine and Isolation Calculator](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html) is a tool to help determine how long you need to isolate, quarantine, or take other steps to prevent spreading COVID-19. People who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 or have COVID-19 can use this tool to determine if they need to isolate, quarantine, or take other steps to prevent spreading COVID-19. (The calculator does not apply to certain groups and high-risk settings.)

Follow this link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html> or paper copies are located in the lobby of the Chenango County Office Building.





High School Seniors College Students

General Information

- The successful candidates will be chosen by the Memorial Gifts Scholarship Committee.
- Scholarships can be used for post-secondary undergraduate education.
- Preference will be given to UCC members, UCC employees, and the children/grandchildren of UCC members and UCC employees.
- Awards for graduating seniors will be presented at the Dollars for Scholars Presentation.
- The awards will be made on character, service, scholarship and financial considerations. Some awards have additional criteria as noted.

Applications are available from the church office or online at www.uccnorwichny.org/links.

Deadline to apply is April 15.



COVID 19 Test Kits

We have **Covid-19 test kits** in the church office. If you need one, pick up a box on Sunday, or make arrangements with the church office 607-334-3434 office@uccnorwichny.org.



Counseling Fee Reimbursement

The Susquehanna Association (of which we are a member), is offering a Counseling Assistance program to reimburse half - up to \$50 - of up to six counseling sessions provided by a licensed NYS therapist. All you have to do is apply. Forms are available from the church office.

Prayer Concerns

Let us keep in our prayers the following concerns:

- ♦ families, families that may be going through particularly difficult times, families seeking God's guidance;
- ♦ those who are moving because of their work, those looking for work, and those looking for meaning in their work.
- ♦ those who are ill, who are recovering from illness or surgery, or who anticipate going to the hospital.
- ♦ those who grieve over the death of someone they love.
- ♦ our church, that it might be faithful to its calling, our pastor, all staff members and committees.
- ♦ peace in the world.
- ♦ gay, lesbian and bisexual and transgendered persons, and all those who feel isolated and alone.
- ♦ all those affected by the worldwide Covid-19 Pandemic
- ♦ The Search Committee

Free Grief Support from Hospice

Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango County offers Free Grief Support to anyone in the community who has recently lost a loved one. Individual counseling, group counseling, family counseling and support groups are free and available to both children and adults. For more information, call Rachel Barletta at 607-334-3556.



BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 4 Dorothea Emmons | 16 Richie Bonney |
| 8 James Dann | 23 Ericka Tyler |
| 15 Dawn Hagenbuch | 26 Paul Currie |
| | 30 Neil Conant |

ANNIVERSARIES

Vincent and Karen Mallozzi - 4/17/71 - 51 years
Chad and Meena Conant - 4/21/07 - 15 years

UPDATED UCC Norwich Reopening Guidelines

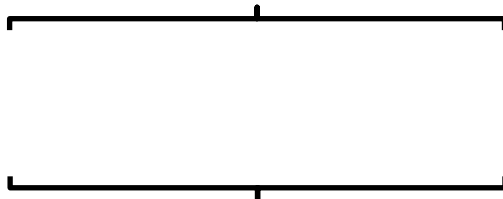
Revised for 3/28/22

COVID Protocols that have been modified:

- Face coverings in the church building will be optional
- Social distancing of 6 feet is still recommended.
- Childcare will be available again beginning in September 2022
- Parishioners may choose their own seating in the Nave. Distancing between non-family groups is still recommended.
- Hymnals, Pew Bibles will be accessible in the pew racks and may be used.
- Congregational singing is now permitted.
- Prayer requests may be spoken during the worship service or may be submitted in the prayer basket. (Usher will bring microphone around to congregation. Microphone cover will be supplied)
- Coffee Hour will resume April 24, 2022 and will be hosted and coordinated by the Deacons.

COVID Protocols that remain in place:

- Passing of the peace will continue to be suspended at this time.
- Offerings will be collected by placing your envelope in a basket upon entering or exiting the Nave.
- Communion will be offered in the pews using individually portioned elements.
- 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.
- 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.
- Disinfection Plan: our Custodian will disinfect all high touch surfaces, including rest rooms and seating areas, before and/or after weekly services.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

United Church of Christ
First Congregational
11 West Main Street
Norwich, NY 13815-1612