Second
Sunday of Easter

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

An Open and Affirming Church

April 24, 2022 10:00 a.m.

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Meditation* Roy Danielen

WELCOME
(Please sign the attendance pad found in the pew and pass to others in your row.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP
ONE: Christ is risen!
ALL: Christ is risen indeed!
ONE: Alleluia! Celebrate God in this sacred space! Celebrate God in all places under heaven!
ALL: Give praise for God's mighty deeds! Give praise for God's resurrecting power!
ONE: Praise God with a fanfare of trumpets.
ALL: Praise God with the harp and the cello!
ONE: Praise God with tambourines and dancing!
ALL: Praise God with flutes and guitars!
ONE: Praise God with cymbals and drums!
ALL: Let everything with life and breath praise God!

INVOCATION

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*Please stand if you are able.
Cover drawing by Judy Smith.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

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OPENING HYMN *We Live by Faith and Not by* Sight #256
(Tune: DUNLAP'S CREEK)

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT
The Lord's Prayer

INCLUSIVE CHURCH PRAYER
Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end,
you break through the locks of gated communities and hardened hearts:
accept our doubts, heal our desire for certainty and, by your Spirit's gentle touch, make us a people forgiven and forgiving; through Jesus Christ, the Giver of Peace. Amen.

TEACHING THE WAY OF

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 READINGS
Psalm 150 Pew Bible OT p. 611
Luke 24:13-35 Pew Bible NT p. 92

CHOIR ANTHEM
I Will Rise Words and Music by Chris Tomlin
Jesse Reeves, Louie Giglio and Matt Maher
Arranged by Jay Rouse
Orchestrated by Rolin R. Mains

SCRIPTURE READING John 20:19-31 Pew Bible NT p. 119

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

SPECIAL MUSIC *God's Peace* Words by Marva J. Dawn
Tune: Beach Spring, attributed to B. F. White
Choral setting by C.J. Adams

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *With Joyful Hearts* Faye López

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.

Question for Reflection
Thomas doubted the resurrection until he saw the nail holes and put his finger in the wound of the risen Christ's hands and side. We, too, have been wounded in this life, and our society often teaches us to hide our wounds and vulnerabilities. What might happen if, like Christ, we invited those shut down by life to explore our wounds?

Household Prayer: Morning
Gracious God, you are the God who is and was and is to be. Thank you that Christ has freed us to be a kingdom of priests serving you and your world. Give me a deeper sense, as I move through this day, of what it means to say that you are my "Alpha and Omega," my A to Z. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening
Jesus, tonight I remember that your gospel gives me the power to forgive any and all, through the gift of your Holy Spirit, and that includes forgiving myself. Breathe your peace into me so that even if I pierced you today, I can still see you coming to embrace me with your freedom and love this night. Amen

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY after the service, the Deacons will host our first Coffee Hour since the pandemic started. We hope you will join us.

PLEASE REMEMBER to sign the attendance pads found in each pew and pass them on to others in your row.

POSITION AVAILABLE - Director of Inclusive Church Ministries (ICM). The Director of ICM is primarily responsible for directing our strategic efforts in diversity, equity, inclusion and advocacy and to help implement these practices in all areas of church ministry. This is a part-time, ten hour per week position. For a job description and requirements, please contact Cheri in the church office (office@uccnowichny.org or 607 -334-3434.) To apply, submit a resume and cover letter to the church office. Deadline to apply is April 30, 2022.

COVID-19 TEST KITS are available at the church office. If you need one, pick up a box on Sunday, or make arrangements with the church office 607-334-3434 or office@uccnorwichny.org.

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, APRIL 24
9:00 a.m. Sunday School on Zoom
10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave or www.uccnorwichny.org/live-stream-2
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, Founders' Rm.
11:30 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Forum on Zoom

MONDAY APRIL 25
10:00 a.m. Worship Planning Meeting, Zoom
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, APRIL 26
1:00 p.m. Quilting Circle, Kitchen
7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, Zoom

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27
10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle on Zoom
3:30 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs
4:30 p.m. Monday Evening Musical Club Scholarship Auditions, Nave, Mayflower Rm.
7:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, APRIL 28
6:30 p.m. Executive Council, Founders' Rm.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29
10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, on Zoom
3:30 p.m. J. Handy, Lessons

SUNDAY, MAY 1
9:00 a.m. Sunday School, on Zoom
10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave or www.uccnorwichny.org/live-stream-2
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, Founders' Rm.
11:30 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Forum, Zoom

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**
Liturgist: **Mary Williams**

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 5/1

Usher:
Liturgist: Linda Oehme
Flowers

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

Past worship services can be viewed at
www.uccnorwichny.org/sermons

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

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

April 24, 2022

UCC Norwich Reopening Guidelines

Revised 03/31/22

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.