



Pride Sunday: Justice with Joy

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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

June 12, 2022

10:00 a.m.

Pride Sunday - Justice with Joy

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE (live)

True Colors

Allie Rehn, cello

Jason Handy, piano

Words and Music by Tom Kelly

and Billy Steinberg

arr. The Brooklyn Duo

WELCOME

(Please sign the attendance pad found in the pew.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We are grateful for the gift of our
lives and the gift of other people in
our lives.

**ALL: Each of us is created with dignity
and worth.**

ONE: We are called to love one another and to do

*Please stand if you are able.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

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nothing to others that we would find hateful to ourselves.

ALL: We honor the many ways that people live and love.

ONE: Our common life is enriched when people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender can live and learn without fear in their homes and communities.

ALL: True justice flourishes when all people can live with authenticity and integrity.

ONE: We repent of our silence in the face of cruelty in our homes and communities. Our silence leads to death.

ALL: We weep at this senseless loss of life.

ONE: We suffer when people who are LGBTQ+ are oppressed, excluded, and shamed by those who overlook the fundamental call to justice in our scriptures.

ALL: Love does not exclude. We are all worthy.

ONE: May we work to build a world where all people, no matter their perceived differences, are celebrated and loved.

ALL: Please God, help us celebrate sexual and gender diversity as your blessing that enriches us all. Amen.

INVOCATION

ONE: Holy God, you break the bonds of oppression and cast out the demons that torment us. Set us free from evil powers, and clothe us with your compassion, so that we may proclaim the good news and declare what you have done through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

In the Midst of New Dimensions
(Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS)

#391

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in heaven
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our debts
as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.

INCLUSIVE CHURCH PRAYER

Gracious God, you love all that you have created, and you celebrate the diversity of your creation. Throughout your history with your people, you have reminded us that those whom the world sees as the least are the greatest in your eyes. We ask that you give us the grace to celebrate with our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender family as they choose to live authentically in the world. Teach us to honor and celebrate their gifts and help us to create a world in which individuals who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender are loved, accepted, and celebrated. We ask this in your many names. Amen.

TEACHING THE WAY OF JESUS

***HYMN** *Help Us Accept Each Other* Insert (v. 2)
(Tune: AURELIA)

PASTORAL BLESSING OF PEACE

ONE: May the Peace of Jesus Christ be with you.
ALL: And also with you.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

DISCIPLESHIP PLEDGE (An Offertory Prayer)

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.

The offering plates are located at both doors for your convenience as you enter or exit the Nave.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 8:26-40

Pew Bible NT p. 131

Galatians 3:23-29

Pew Bible NT p. 201

ANTHEM

In the House of God

Words by Pamela Martin

Music by Craig Courtney

PRIDE PRAYER

a prayer by Alydia Smith for Pride month

People of every sexual orientation, gender expression, and gender identity have the right to live with dignity and without persecution or discrimination, we

Remember in our prayers:

LGBTQ+ people of Russia, Uganda, Zambia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and elsewhere who have been murdered and tortured because of who they are. We remember them and the people who love them.

LGBTQ+ refugees from around the world seeking safety and sanctuary. We remember them and the people who welcome them.

Trans and gender-diverse people in the United States,

in Canada, in Brazil, and elsewhere, who are targeted victims of hate crimes and assaults. We remember them and the people who love them.
LGBTQ+ people whose dignity and self-esteem have been eroded by hateful systems and structures. We remember them and seek to be people who love more fully.
Individually, we each uniquely reflect your glory and express your love, but anti-gay violence, homophobia, and transphobia have blocked many from recognizing your beauty in all people. All of creation suffers from the effects of such hate, fear, and violence.
Daily, may we dedicate ourselves to building bridges of love and hope where harmful divisions have been made, making equity and equality for all people our goal, while working continually for justice, so that
Everyone can live fully in your love. 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

PASTORAL PRAYER

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

***CLOSING HYMN**

Let Justice Flow Like Streams
(Tune: ST. THOMAS S.M.)

#588

BENEDICTION

Bulletin Notes:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE REMEMBER to sign the attendance pads found in each pew and pass them on to others in your row. If you've already given us your contact information, you don't need to fill that in each week unless there is a change.

CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING - Sunday June 26 following the worship service. All covenant members are encouraged to attend to vote on the slate of new board members. Reports will be sent to the congregation on June 17.

NEXT WEEK IS MUSIC SUNDAY - June 19 at 10:00 a.m. Join us as our musicians lead us in worship and we give thanks for their gifts and talents.

DID YOU KNOW THAT GIFTS MADE IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES GO INTO OUR MEMORIAL GIFTS FUND?

These funds are used to provide annual scholarships to covenant members who are attending college, up to \$1,000 total each year. It is also used to purchase gifts for the church which are fitting memorials, such as the communion set, the offering plates, furniture and pianos. The Memorial Gifts Fund relies solely on memorial donations and is not funded through our annual budget. After the 2022 scholarships are given out this summer, the balance of the Fund will only allow for one more year of scholarships. Please consider giving a gift in memory of a loved one to the Memorial Gifts Fund at any time during the year. Donations should be marked "Memorial Gifts" and put in the offering plate or given to the Parish Coordinator.

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. & Fridays at 1:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 12 - Pride Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Nave

or <www.uccnorwichny.org/live-stream-2>

6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Forum, Zoom

MONDAY JUNE 13

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.

TUESDAY, JUNE 14

1:00 p.m. Quilting Circle, Kitchen

7:00 p.m. Executive Council Meeting, Zoom

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom

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

6:00 p.m. Democratic Committee, Founders' Rm.

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Zoom

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

12:30 p.m. S. Marson tutoring

6:30 p.m. Quilting Circle, Founders' Rm.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 19 - Music Sunday

9:00 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, Nave

10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Nave

or <www.uccnorwichny.org/live-stream-2>

3:00 p.m. Service at Chenango Valley Home

6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Forum, Zoom

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

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS IN MINISTRY OF SERVICE:

Interim Pastor: **Rev. John Steitz**
Director of Music Ministries: **Mary Williams**
Organist: **Jason Handy**
Soloist: **Allie Rehn, cello**
Director of Children's/Youth Ministries: **Linda Oehme**
Provisional Director of Inclusive Church Ministries: **Braderick Morrison**
Sunday Sexton: **Shea Breese**
Live Stream: **Jennifer Mallozzi, Chris McSweeney**
Usher: **Ericka Tyler**
Liturgist: **Brad Morrison**
Reader: **Elspeth Hunter**

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 6/19

Usher: Ericka Tyler
Liturgist: Miranda Hunter
Flowers: Weiseman Family

*The flowers are given in honor of
Jessica Posner.
Happy Birthday! from Mom and Dad*

Cover art by 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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS - By appointment only.

CONTACT:

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Web site: www.uccnorwichny.org

facebook

June 12, 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.