

**The United Church of Christ
First Congregational
Norwich, NY**



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.

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**United Church of Christ, First Congregational
Norwich, New York
July 10, 2022 – In Person and Live Stream**

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Blessed Be The Tie That Binds,
Larry Shackley*

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God is good and loving to the faithful.

Give thanks and praise for all that God has done for
us.

ALL: God is good! Praise the Lord!

INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN (recorded)

Enter Rejoice and Come In

#73

TIME OF SHARING

PASTORAL BLESSING OF PEACE

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

ALL: And also with you.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

In this body of believers
there is no longer Jew or Greek,
no longer slave or free,
no longer male and female,
for we are all one in Christ.

In Jesus Christ all are invited
to be children of God through faith.

DISCIPLESHIP 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

Colossians 1:15-28

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, 16 for in[a] him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He himself is before all things, and in[b] him all things hold together. 18 He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. 19 For in him all the fullness of God[c] was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

21 And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled[d] in his fleshly body[e] through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, 23 provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the

faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature[f] under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

This ends the scripture reading.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 10:38-42

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him.[a] 39 She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's[b] feet and listened to what he was saying. 40 But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." 41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, 42 but few things are needed—indeed only one.[c] Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

This is the Gospel of Jesus the Christ.

CHOIR ANTHEM (Mary Solo prerecorded)

Hope of The World

46/533

SERMON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE

A CEREMONY OF SHALOM (Mary Williams)

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Let us with confidence draw near to God.

ALL: That we may find grace in time of need.

A READING Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 adapted.

ONE: Friends, God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help.

ALL: Therefore we will not be afraid, even if the earth is shaken, even if the seas roar and rage, and the hills tremble. God is our shelter and strength.

ONE: We are here to witness and to share in an end and a beginning, to share the making of new commitments, new dreams, new hopes.

ALL: Change is not easy and in this time, we join with you as your friends, pledging our continued support and our prayers. We have been with you in your joys, in your struggles, in your happiness and in your tears. We will always care for you and we will always give and share with you our hope, our trust, our prayers, our love.

PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

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

PASTOR: Are there any Prayer Requests?

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

***CLOSING HYMN (recorded)**

God Be With You

#81

BENEDICTION (Pastor John)

Go out into the world
proclaiming Christ in every corner,
admonishing and teaching with all wisdom,
so that everyone can comprehend fully
the presence and witness of Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

POSTLUDE All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name,
Benton Price.

Bulletin Notes:

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Questions for Reflection

What is the meaning of service? Martha was serving Jesus by being a gracious host and providing a meal. Mary was not serving, but listening to Jesus' teaching. Jesus commends Mary's attentiveness to his teaching and gently rebukes Martha for her busyness in serving. He says, "there is need of only one thing." What is that "one thing" of which Jesus speaks?

Household Prayer: Morning

Dear God, as I begin this day I renew my commitment to live as an agent of your reconciling love. Keep my actions holy, my thoughts blameless, and my intentions irreproachable. Let me be firm in the hope promised by the gospel, that my life may bear witness to Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord Jesus, the labors of the day are over and the evening rest begins. If I have been busy with too many things, return my thoughts to what is needful. At last, let me know the better part you have promised will not be taken away, that I may sleep in your peace and awaken with renewed attentiveness to your presence. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE REMEMBER to sign the attendance pads found in each pew and pass them onto 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.

FOLLOWING WORSHIP please join us in Coffee hour to honor Pastor John.

NEXT WEEK July 24th We will be worshipping with the First Baptist Church. Their worship service will start at 10:30 AM. We will also worship with them on August 7, and 14th.

THE LGBTQ+ Forum meets every Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom for discussion, fellowship and fun. If you are interested in joining, contact the church office at 607-334-3434 or office@uccnorwichny.org.

IF YOU NEED HELP with something, please reach out to the church office or a Deacon. 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, JULY 17

10:00 a.m. Worship Service of Shalom, Nave

or

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

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

MONDAY JULY 18

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom

1:30 p.m. Tutoring, kitchen

3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Rm.

TUESDAY, JULY 19

1:00 p.m. Quilting Circle, Kitchen

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom

THURSDAY, JULY 21

12:30 p.m. S. Marson tutoring, Jr High Rm.

1:00 p.m. Quilting Circle, Founders' Rm.

FRIDAY, JULY 22

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom

SUNDAY, JULY 24

10:30 a.m. Worship Service at First Baptist Church

or

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

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