



**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

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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
Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd
Moderator: John Kolb
Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams
Organist: Jason Handy
Organist Emeritus: Bob Oehme
Interim Dir. Children's Ministries: Jessica Posner
Parish Coordinator: Cheri Oakley
Financial Assistant: Jennifer Mallozzi
Custodian: Eric Burgher

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Daylight Savings Time Ends November 6th.



Remember to turn your
clocks back one hour on
Saturday night, November 5th.

God's Doors are Open to All



From the Pastor

Rev. Jason Boyd

Autumn is by far my favorite season. I like the cooler weather, I like that I can count on being able to watch a whole lot of football, and I like the colors that emerge.

I recently had two separate experiences involving these wonderful colors of autumn that stand out. A few days ago, I was walking Scarlett down Main Street, going east from the parsonage, and I looked up to see the incredible colors of the foliage on the hill east of town, framed by the view down Main Street. It was just magnificent. The other experience was the appearance of an envelope in a bright autumn color on my desk recently – an orange one to be exact.

You might well ask what the big deal is about an orange envelope. Well, it contained a Halloween card, it had a dog on the front and some nice words about Scarlett, so that is always sure to make me smile – even though I truly could not care less about Halloween in general. But what else was contained in this envelope matching the color of many of the leaves is a big deal for all of us.

The card was sent to say how much someone enjoyed our Pet Blessing service. The author went on to say how she blessed her kittens at home along with us during our worship, and it even made a very specific lifting up of Jason Handy for his wonderful playing of the organ piece *Carnival of the Animals* during the service.

For all of us, here is why this is truly a big deal. The card was from someone none of you know (at least I think), who doesn't even live in our state. She had found the livestream services at my previous church, and upon learning I was called here to Norwich, apparently has followed me along to this congregation and is worshipping with us. Beloved ones, this matters because this is what we create and how we can reach people with our livestream. I think in many ways we have only scratched the service on how we can reach people and minister far beyond what we would have thought with our livestreaming.

I would add that there have now been over 300 separate views of Linda Oehme's Celebration of Life service on YouTube. That, more than just about anything, should tell us just how much our livestreaming can reach people, how much it matters to our worship and ministry.

In the days and weeks to come, there will be news about how we can improve what we do, and the work required for it. Among others, Jen Mallozzi and Chris McSweeney have been actively investigating and seeking ways to make our broadcast even more than it is. Techniques, new cameras, perhaps renovated space, and much more – they and others are on it. But I particularly want to lift them up as what they are doing each Sunday morning – and during the week out of our

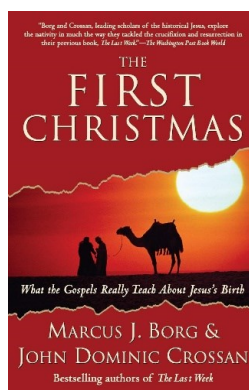
view – is a true call from God and a beautiful ministry. I hope we will all support them to our fullest, and I would invite anyone who would like to learn more about how they make it all happen to talk with them, and perhaps even learn how to do it themselves as well. Alleluia and amen.

By the way, I would be remiss if I didn't mention that Advent starts in November. Advent is my favorite liturgical season by far, but I will have more to say about this in the December newsletter.

Blessings,
Pastor Jason



Let's All Read a Book Together!



Our faith grows more rich and deep through our study and seeking of knowledge, and this year, we have a special opportunity to combine fellowship with study – Pastor Jason is challenging the whole church to read a book together. There will be discussion groups, but even if you choose not to participate, you can still read along with the congregation.

The book is *The First Christmas*, by noted Jesus scholars Marcus Bork and John Dominic Crossan. The back cover of the book says these scholars “join forces to show how history has biased our reading of the nativity story as it appears in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. As they did for Easter in their previous book, *The Last Week*, here they explore the beginning of the life of Christ, peeling away the sentimentalism that has built up over the last two thousand years around this most well known of all stories to reveal the truth of what the gospels actually say. Borg and Crossan help us to see this well-known narrative afresh by answering the question, “What do these stories mean?” in the context of both the first century and the twenty-first century. They successfully show that the Christmas story, read in its original context, is far richer and more challenging than people imagine.”

Sometime in early November, Pastor Jason will get us started on reading, and scheduling groups for discussion. So in the meantime, we will be ordering books through the church office. Please sign up in the church office (or call or email) if you want a book. This is a great way to do a deeper exploration of the life of our Savior as we move toward the celebration of His birth.

Music Committee

Meena Conant, Chair

As we are rapidly reaching the tail end of 2022, the Music Committee met to assess the year thus far. We have successfully awarded scholarship money to nine students for their private piano or vocal training! These nine students are members of our church and/or community. The aid UCC is providing is significant in these peoples' lives.

Jason Handy said the following when asked about his scholarship students:

"UCC Music Scholarship recipients have continued to excel in my piano studio. In addition to performing in our studio recitals, students have used their piano skills to perform with the Norwich Marching Band, to play parts and accompany their school choirs, and to perform in local events such as Chenango Health Network's "Inhale". *Thanks to the music scholarship, these students are becoming stronger musicians by the day!"*

For some of these students, a private music education would not be possible were it not for UCC's music scholarship. For others, it would cause financial strain to the household budget already constrained by growing prices of, well, everything!

This money budgeted for music scholarships is going out to the community in a truly meaningful and beautiful way, shaping lives and fostering skills for individuals who will take this wherever they go! If that's not church, I don't know what is!

Monday Evening Musical Club

presents

**Members and Area Music Teachers
November 7, 7:00 p.m.**

United Church of Christ
11 West Main St., Norwich

Free and open to the public.

Free will donations accepted for the scholarship fund.

Livestream will be available at
facebook.com/mondayeveningmusicclub.

SINGERS WANTED!

to perform

SEEKERS OF THE LIGHT

A Cantata for Christmas

by
Mark Hayes and Lloyd Larson

*Mary Williams, Director
Jason Handy, Accompanist*

**A live performance is planned for 4:00 p.m.
on Sunday afternoon, December 18, 2022 at
the United Church of Christ, 11 West Main
Street Norwich, NY.**

Rehearsal Schedule:

Via ZOOM on the following Sundays:

October 30
November 6
November 27
December 4

**In person at the United Church of Christ
on the following Wednesdays:**

November 30
December 7
December 11
December 14

Dress Rehearsal will be held on Saturday,
December 17 at 2:00 p.m.

Performance - Sunday, December 18 at
4:00 p.m.

**Registrations will be accepted until Friday
November 4, 2022.**

[To Register – Click Here](#)
or call the church office (607-334-3434)
or send an email to
marywilliams@uccnorwichny.org

Stewardship

The Sacrament of Giving - A Prayer

Rev. Dave Long-Higgins, *Conference Minister,
Heartland Conference, UCC*

Generous God,
Form in me a feasting Spirit,
Broadening every daily table
Fashioning a holy communion
With You and the world
Radiating gracious generosity
Replacing every breakdown
With a breaking open
To Your deep abundance.

Yes, Love,
Multiply your gift in me
For sharing with others
That the delight and joy
You yearn for everyone
May rise into fullness.

Let every morsel and drop
Awaken in me a prayer
Grounding and consecrating
A sacrament of self-giving
Forming my life as a sign
Made real in simple acts
Strengthening the world
Of others unknown to me
But made close by You
Who joins everyone
And everything in eternal
Mysteries often hidden
Except as bread shared
Makes us visibly one.

Let no illusions of scarcity
Tempt me to smallness of vision
Narrowness of thinking
Shrinking of spirit
Coldness of heart
Or paralysis of action
Instead help me trust
Your power to multiply
My best gift for Your vision
Of a beloved community
Well-fed and flourishing
Rising up in resurrections
Forming a frequent dance
Of delight at Your amazing
Way of renewing the world.

Yes, Love,
Let this Holy motion of You
Made known in Jesus Christ
Be formed in me,
And let it be
More than enough



Celebrate with Us!

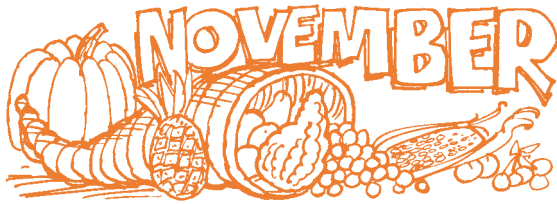
Installation Service November 13

Rev. Jason Boyd will be installed as the settled pastor of our church on Sunday, November 13, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. Reverend Ryan Henderson, UCC New York Conference Associate Conference Minister for Communication and Online Community will be speaking. There will be special music by our Choir and Handbell Choir.





Following the service, we will host a potluck supper. Folks are invited to bring a dish to share such as a main course, side dish, bread and butter, or a dessert item. Cups, plates and flatware will be provided. A sign-up sheet is available in the church office or contact [Cheri Oakley](#), to let us know if you plan to attend and what you will bring.



If you would like to help with setting up or cleaning up, contact Rose Laughlin.



The Norwich Muslim Community meets upstairs every evening and Friday afternoon. Children's Sunday School is held weekly on Zoom. Sometimes it is also in person at the same time. Check our Facebook page for updates.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 <i>All Saints Day</i> 1:00 p.m. Quilters, Kitchen	2 9:00 a.m. Home Bureau, Founders' Rm. 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 7:00 p.m. Choir, at UCC	3	4 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons	5  It's time to "Fall Back!" Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday at <u>Zam</u>
6 9:00 a.m. Nursery 9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship/ Communion <i>All Saints Day observed</i> 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 3:00 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal, Zoom 6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom	7 9:30 a.m. Worship Team 10:00 a.m. Knitting Group 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 10:30 a.m. Livestream Team Mtg. 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Rm. 3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs 7:00 p.m. Monday Evening Musical Club concert, Nave.	8 1:00 p.m. Quilters, kitchen 7:00 p.m. Executive Council, Zoom	9 9:00 a.m. Home Bureau, Founders' Rm. 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 7:00 p.m. Choir, at UCC 	10 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers Mtg., Founders' Rm.	11 Veterans Day Staff Holiday 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons	12
13 9:00 a.m. Nursery 9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship <i>Stewardship Sunday</i> 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 3:00 p.m. Installation Service (See p. 4) 4:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner (See p 4.) 6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom	14 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Rm. 3:30 p.m. E. Fischer Lessons, Nave 4:00 p.m. Helping Hands Collection Night, YMCA 6:00 p.m. Garden Club, Founders' Rm.	15 1:00 p.m. Quilters, Kitchen 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, Chapel	16 9:00 a.m. Home Bureau, Founders' Rm. 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 6:00 p.m. Democratic Comm. Founders' Rm. 7:00 p.m. Choir, at UCC	17 6:00 p.m. Helping Hands Give-away Night, YMCA 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting Zoom	18 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons	19
20 9:00 a.m. Nursery 9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 2:00 p.m. Set up Thanksgiving boxes, Founders' Rm. 6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom	21 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Hand-out Thanksgiving boxes	22 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Hand-out Thanksgiving boxes	23 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom	24 Thanksgiving Day <i>Church Office Closed</i> Private Dinner in the Founders' Room. 	25 <i>Church Office Closed</i> 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom	26 9:00 a.m. Fourth Saturday Diaper Give-away at First Baptist Church
27 9:00 a.m. Nursery 9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship <i>First Sunday in Advent</i> 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 3:00 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal, Zoom 6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom	28 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Rm. 3:30 p.m. E. Fischer Lessons, Nave	29 1:00 p.m. Quilters, Kitchen	30 9:00 a.m. Home Bureau, Founders' Rm. 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave		 Save the Date Decorating the Church for Advent Saturday, December 3 at 10:00 a.m.	



Holiday Fundraiser for The Place

Fraser Fir Wreaths - 10" ring (25" tip to tip) - \$35.00

Red Poinsettias - in a 6" pot - \$15.00

Pick up Nov. 25 - Dec. 16
at Pires Flower Basket, 216 N Broad St., Norwich

BUY TICKETS FROM NORMA KINNEY
at church or call her at 607-334-8911.



Calling all UCC children and youth!
You are invited to draw, color, or paint about climate hope, environmental justice, or protecting the Earth.



[UCC.org/ClimateHopeCards](https://www.ucc.org/ClimateHopeCards)

If you are under age 18, you are invited to enter the *UCC Climate Hope Cards Art Contest*. Draw, paint or color your feelings about climate hope, environmental justice or protecting the Earth. An art worksheet is available from the [church office](#) or download from this link: <https://www.ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Climate-Hope-Cards-Drawing-Sheet.pdf>

Deadline: November 29th - Upload a photo or scan of your art at [UCC.org/ClimateHopeCards](https://www.ucc.org/ClimateHopeCards).

Winners will be announced during an online award ceremony on Saturday, January 7, 2023. The winners of the Arts Contest will have their art printed on thousands of Climate Hope Cards to be collected by UCC members around the country and ultimately delivered en mass to the White House.

We've Got Mail



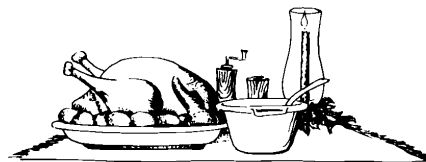
Dear UCC,

Thank you for your congregation's generous gift to the 2022-2023 Annual Fund for CRCDS at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (CRCDS). The Annual Fund for CRCDS provides essential funding to virtually every area of the school's operation. Your gift truly makes a difference as we continue to live into our mission.

As we remain faithful to CRCDS' distinctive Christian identity, I ask that you continue to pray with and for us as we strive to become a seminary of and for the community committed to practices of peace, service, and justice. Please know your active participation in the life of the School makes it possible for us to *form students in theological and multi-religious studies to serve, care, and advocate for all peoples and the earth.*

Thank you, again, for all you have done and continue to do for CRCDS.

Yours in peace, service, and justice,
Rev. Angela D. Sims, Ph.D., President



FREE Thanksgiving Dinner
Turkey and all the Trimmings
Thanksgiving Day - November 24th
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
37 West Main St., Norwich

Home Deliveries
only within a 2 mile radius of Norwich
beginning at 10:30 am.

Take Out
beginning at 11:15 a.m.
reservations encouraged.

For delivery, take-out or to volunteer,
call 607-334-8801 or
email emmanuelchurch20@gmail.com
by Nov. 20, 2022.

Thanksgiving Baskets

We will be giving a gift card for a turkey or ham and a box of food with the basics of a Thanksgiving meal to 100 families in the Norwich community.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

1. **GIVE** Money to help purchase food in bulk. Mail a check or put it in the offering plate.
2. **BRING IN** Stuffing mix, gravy packets or cans, canned vegetables (no glass) anytime before November 7th.
3. **VOLUNTEER:** See below.

Thanksgiving Volunteer Sign Up

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Sunday, November 20th - 2:00 p.m.

- ☐ Separate produce and assemble the Thanksgiving Boxes

Monday, November 21st - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Hours you are available: _____

Please check where you would like to help:

- ☐ Sign-in desk (check people in)
- ☐ Distribute boxes (lifting required)
- ☐ Pick-up desk (hand out box, butter and gift card)
- ☐ Where-ever needed

Tuesday, November 22nd - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Hours you are available: _____

Please check where you would like to help:

- ☐ Sign-in desk (check people in)
- ☐ Distribute boxes (lifting required)
- ☐ Pick-up desk (hand out box, butter and gift card)
- ☐ Where-ever needed

Tuesday, November 22nd - 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Hours you are available: _____

Please check where you would like to help:

- ☐ Sign-in desk (check people in)
- ☐ Distribute boxes (lifting required)
- ☐ Pick-up desk (hand out box, butter and gift card)
- ☐ Where-ever needed
- ☐ Starting at 5:00 p.m.)
- ☐ Make calls to families who haven't picked up

Return this form to the church office

or

Send an [email to office@uccnorwichny.org](mailto:emailtooffice@uccnorwichny.org) indicating where and when you'd like to volunteer.

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 people affected by the war in Ukraine.
- ♦ these members of our church family as they deal with health concerns: Julie Gonzalez, Vicki Gray, Cheri Oakley, Ruth Tucker, Ericka Tyler

Contact the church office if you'd like an address to send a card or to add or remove someone from this list.

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

to **Bob Oehme, Betty Yeahl, Jessica Posner, Jennifer Mallozzi** and their family for the loss of **Linda Oehme**, who died on October 6, 2022.



November Celebrations



Birthdays

- 2 Pat Flores
- 5 Bob Bartlett
- 11 Darcy Gates-Brewer
Terry Hagenbuch
- 14 Vincent Mallozzi
- 18 Matt Maholchic
- 24 Alexander Gage
Milo Hedlund
- 29 Taylor Hagenbuch

Anniversary

Annette Piacquadio and Paul Currie - 11/14/1992



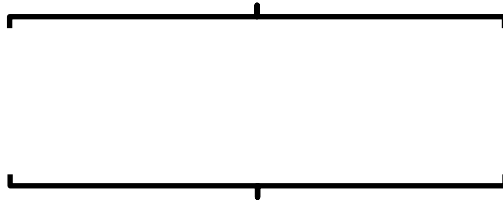
Celebrate with Us
Installation Service
for
Rev. Jason Boyd
Sunday, November 13
3:00 p.m.

United Church of Christ, First Congregational
11 West Main Street, Norwich NY
607-334-3434

Livestream: <https://youtu.be/x7A7QdFOBzE>
or www.uccnorwichny.org/live-stream-2

Clergy are requested to wear stoles of
all the rainbow colors of God's creation.

Join us for a potluck dinner after the service.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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