



To You O God all creatures sing.
And all creation, everything,
sings your praises. Alleluia!

St. Francis of Assisi, 1225

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

October 9, 2022

10:00 a.m.

Blessing of the Animals

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

The Elephant, from *Carnival of the Animals*

Camille Saint-Saëns

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Come, as we PAWS in our day to gather together.

ALL: **We are MOOved on our WINGS to join the gathering: we bring fish and birds.**

ONE: Come, all is ready for all of God's PURR-fect creation.

ALL: **We have HOOFeD it to join in the holy HERD gathering: we bring turtles, dogs, and cats.**

ONE: Come, to CHIRP and sing and BARK our praise for our Creator.

ALL: **We are filled to the GILLS with God's love: we bring all flora, fauna, and all the glory of God's creation.**

ONE: Come, with all creation in a joyful STAMPEDE to the TREATS God has given us in Covenant.

ALL: **As we gather, we are mindful that, as part of God's creation, we wish the best for one another from head to TAIL with a mighty ROAR, and for all that God called good.**

ONE: Come, let us worship God.

*Please stand if you are able.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

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PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*OPENING HYMN

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing
(Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN)

#17 (v. 1-2)

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

HYMN *We Are Marching in the Light of God*
(Tune: SIYAHAMBIA)

#526

BLESSING OF THE PETS

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.

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) (Pastor)

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.**

Offering plates are located at both Nave doors for your convenience.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 8

Genesis 9: 8-17

Pew Bible OT p. 542

Pew Bible OT p. 8

CHOIR ANTHEM

All things Bright and Beautiful
(Tune: ROYAL OAK)

#31
(congregation joins on the refrain.)

SERMON "God, Pet Parent"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE The Swan, from *Carnival of the Animals*
Camille Saint-Saëns

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** *To You, O God, All Creatures Sing* #17 (v. 3-4)
(Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *The Lion, from Carnival of the Animals*
Camille Saint-Saëns

Bulletin Notes:

Call to Worship adapted from Catholic Climate Covenant

Invocation: The Prayer of St. Francis; St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS IN MINISTRY OF SERVICE:

Pastor and Teacher: **Rev. Jason Boyd**

Liturgist: **Miranda Hunter**

Director of Music Ministries: **Mary Williams**

Organist: **Jason Handy**

Live Stream: **Jennifer Mallozzi, Chris McSweeney**

Sunday Sexton: **Elsbeth Hunter**

Nursery: **Fiora Breese**

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 10/16

Usher:

Liturgist: **Ericka Tyler**

Flowers:

Coffee Hour:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NURSERY CARE is available for children up to the age of five beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Nursery is located up the stairs at the front of the building. Children are also welcome in the entire the service or can leave after the Children's Moment – whatever works best for your family.

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO the family and loved ones of Linda Oehme who passed away on October 6, 2022.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- 9 Josiah Tyler
- 10 Kyle Conant
- 11 Jessie Brewer
Carol Nassar
- 12 Destinie Smith
- 13 Katie Izzo

ANNIVERSARIES

Terri and Jason Yantz 10/09/2004
Cheri and Kevin Oakley 10/12/2019
Steve and Melissa Emmons 10/15/2016

CALL TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET INFORMATION MEETING -

Sunday, October 23 after the worship service the Trustees will present a preliminary budget for 2023.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING HOW THE LIVESTREAM EQUIPMENT WORKS?

The Livestream Group is looking for a second intern to learn how to operate the computer that generates the livestream. Contact the Church Office or Jennifer Mallozzi for more information.

THE DEACONS NEED YOUR HELP. Rose Laughlin needs someone to shop with once a month for about half an hour to pick up donations for Helping Hands. Also, donations of brown paper bags to hold the donations would be greatly appreciated.

BLESSING OF THE PETS at noon today in the park across the street from the church, weather permitting. Bring your animals for an "in-person" blessing. All animals should be appropriately leashed or crated as need be.

PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD and sign up to usher, provide flowers, host coffee hour or serve as liturgist. There are many open spaces. Thank you!

THE DATE AND TIME for Pastor Jason's installation is set. Please mark your calendar for Sunday, November 13 at 3:00 p.m. We will gather here and on YouTube for Pastor Jason's formal installation by the Susquehanna Association of the New York Conference of UCC.

PASTORAL CARE REMINDER - Pastor Jason will be away from Norwich from October 24 through November 2. During that time, Rev. Laura Wade of Christ Lutheran Church on North Broad Street will be available for emergency pastoral care. Her contact information is available at the church office and will be sent to members of the church family before October 24.

CALENDAR

The Chenango Muslim Community meets upstairs daily at 9:30 p.m. & Fridays at 1:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
10:00 a.m. Worship Service - Blessing of the Pets, Nave
11:30 a.m. Bell Choir, upstairs
12:00 p.m. Blessing of the Pets, West Side Park
4:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting, Zoom
6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Forum, Zoom

MONDAY OCTOBER 10

Indigenous People's Day - No church office hours.

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
10:00 a.m. Knitting Group, Kitchen
3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Rm.
3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

10:00 - 3:00 p.m. Pastor Jason's Office Hours
1:00 p.m. Quilting Circle, Kitchen

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
9:00 a.m. Home Bureau, Kitchen
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Nave

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

10:00 - 3:00 p.m. Pastor Jason's Office Hours
10:15 a.m. Thanksgiving Meeting, Mayflower Room
1:00 p.m. Piecemakers Meeting, Founders' Room
7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, on Zoom

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Nave
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, Founders' Room
11:30 a.m. Bell Choir, upstairs
6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Forum, Zoom

October 9, 2022

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

11 West Main St., Norwich NY 13815

607-334-3434 - office@uccnorwichny.org - www.uccnorwichny.org

MINISTERS: All the People

PASTOR AND TEACHER: Rev. Jason Boyd

MODERATOR: John Kolb

CHAIR OF DEACONS: Mary Williams

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES: Mary Williams

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES: Jessica Posner

PARISH COORDINATOR: Cheri Oakley

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT: Jennifer Mallozzi

facebook

CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

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

(Closed 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.)

and by appointment

UCC Norwich Reopening Guidelines

Revised 03/31/22

- 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 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.
- 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.