



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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

November 27, 2022

10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent - HOPE

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Creators of the Stars of Night* David Lasky
Tune: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM,
Plainchant

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP - LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES
First Sunday of Advent – HOPE

CANTICLE

Prepare! from “*Seekers of the Light*” Music by Lloyd Larson
Words from Isaiah 40:3-4 and Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722)
Translated by Sarah B. Findlander (1823-1907)

Prepare, prepare for the coming of the Lord;
in the desert, prepare a road.
Ev’ry valley shall be lifted high,
each mountain and hill made low.

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Candle lighting liturgy by Rev. Dr. Derek Weber, United Methodist Church
Unison Prayer by Rev. Michael N. Jagessar, United Reformed Church
Prayer of Invocation by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell

Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #735996-A. All rights reserved.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

UNISON PRAYER

God-of-righteous-dreaming, lighten our hearts with an enlarged imagination to dream new possibilities: to imagine a world where transformation will happen, where creation is mended and restored, and where exiles and strangers will find a home. Become in our lives the way to what we need, to what we can become, and to what we can do. Amen.

CANTICLE

Prepare! from "Seekers of the Light" Music by Lloyd Larson
Words from Isaiah 40:3-4 and Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722)
Translated by Sarah B. Findlander (1823-1907)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***OPENING HYMN** *Keep Awake, Be Always Ready* #112
(Tune: WACHET AUF)

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.

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.**

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

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 2:1-5 Pew Bible OT p. 700
Matthew 24:36-44 Pew Bible NT p. 28

CHOIR ANTHEM *Prepare!* from "Seekers of the Light"
Music by Lloyd Larson
Words from Isaiah 40:3-4
and Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722)
Translated by Sarah B. Findlander (1823-1907)

SERMON *The Fire Of Hope*

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 (Pastor)

PASTORAL PRAYER

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

***CLOSING HYMN** *Hope of the World* Insert (v. 1-3)
(Tune: WELWYN)

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE *Hope of the World* Insert (v. 4)
(Tune: WELWYN)

POSTLUDE *Wake, Awake! For Night Is Flying!* Dennis Eliot

*The flowers are given by Norma Kinney
in memory of her father, Paul N. Kinney.*

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS IN MINISTRY OF SERVICE:

Pastor and Teacher: **Rev. Jason Boyd**
Liturgist: **Ericka Tyler**
Candlighting: **Judy Smith,**
Director of Music Ministries: **Mary Williams**
Organist: **Jason Handy**
Live Stream: **Jennifer Mallozzi, Chris McSweeney**
Interim Director of Children's Ministries: **Jessica Posner**
Sunday Sexton: **Elsbeth Hunter**
Nursery: **Fiora Breese**
Usher: **Elsbeth Hunter**

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 12/4

Usher: Norma Kinney
Liturgist: Miranda Hunter
Flowers: Poinsettias
Coffee Hour: Miranda Hunter

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 welcome in the entire the service or can leave after the Children's Moment – whatever works best for your family.

CALL TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING MEETING TO VOTE ON THE 2023 BUDGET - DECEMBER 11 in the Founders' Room, following the worship service. Members of the church are encouraged to attend.

Birthdays

12/2 Pat Whitmore
12/3 Pete Williams

Anniversary

12/01/07 - David and Rena Hall

CHANGE TO CHURCH OFFICE OPEN HOURS

Monday – Tuesday – Thursday
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (closed 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.)

***"THE FIRST CHRISTMAS"* BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS START THIS WEEK ON ZOOM**

Part I: Tuesday, 11/29 at 4:00 p.m. or Thursday, 12/1 at 7:00 p.m.
Part II: Tuesday, 12/6 at 2:00 p.m. or Thursday, 12/8 at 7:00 p.m.
Part III: Tuesday, 12/13 at 2:00 p.m. or Thursday, 12/15 at 7:00 p.m.
Please note that the first Tuesday meeting is at 4:00 p.m.

If you want to participate in the Discussion Groups and you have not received the Zoom links, please contact Cheri in the church office. There are still a few books available. You are welcome to read the book, whether or not want to be a part of the discussion groups.

THE DEACONS INVITE YOU to help decorate the church for the Advent season on **Saturday, December 3 at 10:00 a.m.** All are welcome!

DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER is Monday, November 28th. Please send your items and articles to Cheri at office@uccnorwichny.org.

CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27- First Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School in person and Zoom
9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Nave
11:30 a.m. Bell Choir, upstairs
3:00 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal, Zoom
6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Forum, Zoom

MONDAY NOVEMBER 28

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Room
3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs
3:30 p.m. E. Fischer Lessons, Nave

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

1:00 p.m. Piecemakers Quilt Circle, Kitchen
4:00 pm. Book Discussion Group on Zoom

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

7:00 p.m. Book Discussion Group on Zoom

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

10:00 a.m. Decorate the Church for Advent and Christmas.
Everyone invited!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 - Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Nave
11:30 a.m. Bell Choir, upstairs
3:00 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal, Zoom
6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Forum, Zoom

November 27, 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

[facebook](#)

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

CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

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 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.