



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



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



**An Open and Affirming Church**

**January 1, 2023**

**10:00 a.m**

***PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD***

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE** *Gifts for the Child* Eugene Butler  
Quoting the Catalan carol "What Shall I Give to the Child?")

**WELCOME**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***GATHERING***

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**ONE:** My kindred, rejoice! Know that you are beloved, and precious to God!

**ALL:** **For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!**

**ONE:** The hungry of the cities, the small towns, the countryside throughout all Creation, are precious to God:

**ALL:** **For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!**

**ONE:** The sick, especially those that continue to be stricken with COVID-19, are precious to God:

**ALL:** **For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!**

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**Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.**

Invocation and Call to Worship by Rev. Stephanie Dorsey  
Bulletin cover art by Judy Smith.

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ONE: Time is precious to God:

**ALL: May our worship this morning as a new year dawns  
sow seeds of justice in this world, so that all who are  
precious to God may reap God's blessings upon them.**

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *O Come, All You Faithful*  
(Tune: ADESTE FIDELIS)

#135

## ***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 60:1-6

Pew Bible OT p. 766

Matthew 2:1-12

Pew Bible NT p. 2

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*All The Earth Rejoices*

Mark Hayes

Jason Handy, piano

**SERMON** *We, The Magi of Norwich*

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

### **INTERLUDE**

### **AFFIRMING OUR FAITH**

*United Church of Christ Statement of Faith*

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**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

#154 (verses 1-3)

(Tune: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN)

#### **BENEDICTION**

#### **RESPONSE**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

#154 (refrain only)

(Tune: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN)

#### **POSTLUDE**

*Go, Tell It On The Mountain*

Mark Hayes

Tune: GO TELL IT, Traditional American Spiritual

## **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.

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

2 Fiora Breese

4 Barbara Kraft

6 Antoinette Piacquadio

7 Elizabeth Barber-Breese

**THE CHURCH OFFICE** is closed Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> for the New Year's Day Holiday.

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON JANUARY 8 FOR SOMETHING NEW**

January 8 is Baptism of Christ Sunday, and beginning this year, we will re-affirm our baptisms in worship. The baptismal font will be out, and all will be invited to come forward during worship. For those who are not baptized, a blessing will also be available. Likewise, those worshipping from home on YouTube are invited to have blessing water ready as they will have the opportunity to participate as well.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2023,**

when we will have our first ever Mardi Gras service. Break out your beads and your most garish festive outfits, because we are going to swing – the jazz kind of swing, we mean – out of Epiphany and into Lent. Pastor Jason, Mary Williams, and Jason Handy have already started planning the service, and even Scarlett has Mardi Gras beads.

We are even hoping to have a special meal after worship that day. Perhaps a New Orleans-themed potluck? Perhaps a big pancake breakfast? We shall see! But we need folks who can step up and organize. If you are willing to do so, please let Pastor Jason know, so that the planning can continue. Laissez les bons temps roulez!

**EPIPHANY BIBLE STUDY** starting on Monday, January 9 at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom. Join us for a deeper dive into the lectionary verses for Epiphany! In this season, we will be gathering on Zoom each week to read together and discuss the scriptures. Printed and electronic copies will be available from the church office.

**Here are all of the dates - 2:00 p.m. on Zoom.**

Mondays - 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30

Monday - 2/6 (No Pastor Jason this week),

TUESDAY - 2/14

Monday - 2/20

For the Zoom meeting link, contact the church office at [office@uccnorwichny.org](mailto:office@uccnorwichny.org) or 607-334-3434.

**IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN** - In case of inclement weather, please don't take any risks to get to church on a Sunday morning. You can tune in to the live stream at [www.uccnorwichny.org/live-stream-2](http://www.uccnorwichny.org/live-stream-2). If we cancel church all together, we will post on Facebook and Instagram, and also with a message on the church phone (607-334-3434).

## CALENDAR

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

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 - New Year's Day**

9:00 a.m. Nursery  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Nave  
6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

### **MONDAY, JANUARY 2 - Church Office Closed**

10:00 a.m. Knitting Group, kitchen  
10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, on Zoom  
3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Room

### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 3**

9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Aid Training, Founders' Room, Kitchen  
10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, on Zoom  
1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Chapel/Mayflower Room

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4**

9:00 a.m. Home Bureau, Founder's Room

### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 5**

9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Aid Training, Founders' Room, Kitchen

### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 6**

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

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 8**

9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs  
9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School, upstairs  
10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion, Nave  
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour  
11:00 a.m. Undecorate the Church - All are invited to help.  
6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

### **TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:**

Pastor and Teacher: **Rev. Jason Boyd**  
Liturgist: **Elinor Beebe**  
Director of Music Ministries: **Mary Williams**  
Organist: **Jason Handy**  
Live Stream: **Jennifer Mallozzi, Chris McSweeney**  
Sunday Sexton: **Elspeth Hunter**  
Nursery: **Fiora Breese**  
Coffee Hour: **No coffee hour**

### **NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 1/8**

Usher:  
Liturgist:  
Flowers:  
Coffee Hour:

**January 1, 2023**

**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

**DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES:** Ericka Tyler

**PARISH COORDINATOR:** Cheri Oakley

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANT:** Jennifer Mallozzi

facebook



**CHURCH OFFICE OPEN**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. - 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.



# ***Poinsettias***

In memory of  
**J. Peter Chaplin**  
from Cynthia and Michael Chaplin

In honor of  
**Virginia Chaplin**  
from Cynthia and Michael Chaplin

In memory of  
**Stacy Gage, Warren and Helene Granz and Amy Gage**  
from Maxine, Sam and Alex Gage

In memory of  
**Gary N. and Elizabeth R. Gray Sr.,**  
and **William R. and Doris G. Noel**  
from Gary and Vicki Gray

In memory of  
**John Wassenaar, Bill Johnson and Catherine Johnson**  
from Janet and Jeff Johnson

In memory of **Linda Oehme and Marsha Posner**  
from Jessica and Justin Posner

In memory of all our **loved ones**  
from Allan and Elissa Sawyer

In memory of **Paul J. Sternberg and Amanda Butler Sternberg**  
from Pat Sternberg.

In memory of **Ruth Tucker**  
from Rose Laughlin

In memory of their parents, **Carroll and Shirley Edwards**  
from Francis, Mark, Janet and Arlene

In memory of **Miriam H. Weiseman**