



Brick Church, as enlarged, 1874.

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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

January 22, 2023

10:00 a.m

Third Sunday After the Epiphany

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Bell Prelude*

Esther Megargel

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: When the news of the world brings despair,

ALL: We remember that God always comes through.

ONE: Through the Scriptures we hear the stories of perseverance,

ALL: We sing songs of praise and faith.

ONE: In our prayers we put our trust in God,

ALL: In our love for one another we find our hope.

ONE: We join our hearts in this time of worship,

ALL: Knowing that God calls us in faithfulness to be one.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Call to Worship and Invocation by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell

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***OPENING HYMN** *Arise, Your Light Is Come* #164
(Tune: FESTAL SONG)

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

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Matthew 4:12-23

Pew Bible OT p. 555

Pew Bible NT p. 3

CHOIR ANTHEM

Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult

Cecil F. Alexander

Tune: GALILEE by William H. Jude

SERMON *Too Many Fish in the Sea*

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**

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore
(Tune: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES)

Insert (v.1-3)

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore
(Tune: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES)

Insert (v. 4)

POSTLUDE *Lord God On High*

Lani Smith

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.

BIRTHDAY

1/22 Steve Emmons
1/24 Corey Johnson
1/26 Michael Carson

CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING - Sunday, January 29
following the worship service.

PASTOR JASON will be doing some continuing education this week. From Tuesday through Thursday, he will be in the Zoom classroom from 10am until 6pm, and will not be available during those times. He will be checking email and messages afterwards however.

SO YOU ALREADY KNOW IT'S COMING --- 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, and get ready for the saints to go marching in. **As we told you a few weeks ago, 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! Pat Burke has offered to organize the meal, but she needs help. Please think about this, we want to make this a great day. Pastor Jason has even obtained the Mardi Gras King Cake recipe from the Court of Two Sisters Restaurant in New Orleans, and he's willing to share it, but only when we know our Mardi Gras Feast is going to happen. Please consider helping, and let us know ASAP.

EPIPHANY BIBLE STUDY Monday at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom. We will be gathering on Zoom each week to read together and discuss the scriptures. Printed and electronic copies of the scripture are available from the church office. For the Zoom meeting link, contact the church office at 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 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 22

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 23

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, on Zoom
10:00 a.m. Knitting Group, Kitchen
2:00 p.m. Bible Study, on Zoom. (See announcements.)
3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders Room
3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs
3:30 p.m. E. Fischer Lessons, Have
7:00 p.m. Music Committee, Chapel and Zoom

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24 - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

9:00 a.m. AARP Tax Training, Founders' Rm.
1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Kitchen
7:00 p.m. Executive Council, Zoom

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

9:00 a.m. Home Bureau, Founder's Room
10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Nave

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave
11:00 a.m. Annual Meeting
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, Founders' Room
6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

The flowers are in memory of the Obenauer Family.

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd

Liturgist: Miranda Hunter

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Organist: Jason Handy

Director of Children's Ministries: Ericka Tyler

Live Stream: Jennifer Mallozzi, Chris McSweeney

Sunday Sexton: Elspeth Hunter

Nursery: Fiora Breese

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 1/29

Usher: Pete Williams

Liturgist: Gary Gray

Flowers:

Coffee Hour: Board of Deacons

January 22, 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'S 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.