

**ACT JUSTLY
LOVE MERCY
WALK HUMBLY**

MICAH 6:8

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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

January 29, 2023

10:00 a.m

**Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany
Annual Meeting Sunday**

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *I Trust, O Christ, in You Alone* Johann Pachelbel

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Luke 6: 20-22, Matthew 5: 3-12)

ONE: The poor, and those in solidarity with them – God is on your side.

ALL: **Those who mourn and feel grief about the state of the world – God is on your side.**

ONE: The non-violent, gentle and humble – God is on your side.

ALL: **Those who hunger and thirst for the common good – God is on your side.**

ONE: The merciful and compassionate – God is on your side.

ALL: **Those characterized by sincerity, kindness and generosity – God is on your side.**

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Call to Worship by Brian McClaren and Rob Bell

Prayer of Invocation by: Suzanne Fegeol

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ONE: Those who work for peace and reconciliation – God is on your side.

ALL: Those who keep seeking justice – God is on your side.

ONE: Those who stand for justice and truth as the prophets did, who refuse to be quiet even when slandered, misrepresented, threatened, imprisoned, or harmed – God is on your side!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***OPENING HYMN**

Lead on Eternal Sovereign
(Tune: LANCASHIRE)

#573

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

Micah 6:1-8

Pew Bible OT p. 966

Matthew 5:1-12

Pew Bible NT p. 4

CHOIR ANTHEM

We Are Called

Words and music by David Haas

Arranged by Mark Hayes

SERMON *Beatitudinal*

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,

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: 2/1 - Betty Yeahl

ANNIVERSARY - John Brereton and Cynthia Maynerd – 2/4/19

THE JANUARY ANNUAL MEETING is today following the worship service.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED the next two weeks while Cheri Oakley, our Parish Coordinator is on vacation. The church office email and voicemail will be monitored every few days.

MARDI GRAS IS COMING - February 19 we will have a special worship service followed by a meal. 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.

LENTEN BOOK STUDY. Pastor Jason has chosen another book for us all to read together -- *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem*. Copies are available in the church office. Dates for discussion groups will be announced as Lent gets closer.

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 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

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, on Zoom
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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

9:00 a.m. Home Bureau, Founder's Room
10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
5:45 p.m. Missions Committee, Mayflower Room
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Nave

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

8:00 a.m. AARP Tax Aid, Founders' Room

FRIDAY, February 3

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

10:00 a.m. Meeting, Mayflower Room

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion, Nave
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd

Liturgist: Gary Gray

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Organist: Jason Handy

Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Ericka Tyler

Live Stream: Jennifer Mallozzi, Chris McSweeney

Sunday Sexton: Elspeth Hunter

Nursery: Fiora Breese

Usher: Pete Williams

Coffee Hour: Board of Deacons

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 2/5

Usher: Gary Gray

Liturgist: Bob Oehme

Flowers:

Coffee Hour: Deacons

January 29, 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.