

Happy are those whose way is
blameless,
who walk in the law of
the LORD.

Psalm 119



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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

February 12, 2023

10:00 a.m

Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen

arr. Florence Price

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

(from Proverbs 8:1-4, 33-35)

ONE: Does not Wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?

ALL: On the heights, at the crossroads she takes her stand.

ONE: Beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance she cries out,

ALL: To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live.

ONE: Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it.

*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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ALL: Happy is the one who listens to Wisdom, watching and waiting daily.

ONE: For whoever finds Wisdom finds life, and obtains favor from the Lord.

ALL: Come, worship God, seek Wisdom, and follow Jesus our Lord.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***OPENING HYMN** *I Woke Up This Morning* Insert
(Tune: WOKE UP THIS MORNING)

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 119:1-8

Pew Bible OT p. 626

Matthew 5:21-37

Pew Bible NT p. 5

CHOIR ANTHEM

There Is A Balm

African American Spiritual
arranged by Robert Lau

SERMON *You Have Heard It Said*

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**

O Savior, Let Me Walk with You
(Tune: MARYTON)

#503 (v. 1-4)

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE *God Be With You* #81 (v. 1 with refrain)
(Tune: GOD BE WITH YOU)

POSTLUDE

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho

André J. Thomas
based on a traditional Spiritual
arranged by Douglas E. Wagner

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

2/16 Audrey Aitken

2/17 Jason Yantz

MARDI GRAS IS COMING NEXT SUNDAY - February 19 Join us for a joyous, Mardi Gras style worship service followed by a special New Orleans style potluck! Break out your beads, masks and boas! Wear your most garish outfits! Laissez les bons temps roulez!

BIBLE STUDY IS ON TUESDAY, February 14th this week (not Monday) at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom.

COMMUNITY ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE and Ukraine Prayer Service, February 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Nave.

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. If you are interested in attending a discussion group, they will be held on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. or Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom beginning February 21st and running through April 13th.

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, FEBRUARY 12

9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
11:30 a.m. Hand Bells, upstairs
6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

8:00 a.m. AARP Tax Prep, Founders' Rm.
10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Mayflower Room
3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs
7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting, Zoom

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

8:00 a.m. AARP Tax Prep, Founders' Rm.
1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Mayflower Room
2:00 p.m. Bible Study, on Zoom. (See announcements.)
5:00 p.m. Catholic Churches' Soup Kitchen at St. Bart's Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

9:00 a.m. Home Bureau, Founders' Room
10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
6:00 p.m. Democratic Committee, Founders' Rm.
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Nave

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

8:00 a.m. AARP Tax Prep, Founders' Rm.
6:00 p.m. Helping Hands Give-away at the YMCA
7:00 p.m. Trustees, Zoom

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Deadline for March Newsletter items.

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave
11:00 a.m. Potluck Lunch, Founders' Rm.
6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd
Liturgists: John Kolb and Mary Williams
Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams
Organist: Jason Handy
Live Stream: Chris McSweeney, Liam Hunter
Sunday Sexton: Elspeth Hunter
Nursery: Fiora Breese
Usher: Elizabeth Barber-Breese
Coffee Hour: Deacons

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS 2/19

Usher:
Liturgist: Elizabeth Barber-Breese
Flowers:

February 12, 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.