

**A monthly publication of  
United Church of Christ, First Congregational  
Norwich, NY**

**[www.uccnorwichny.org](http://www.uccnorwichny.org)**



## CONTACT US

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## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

## WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays, 10:00 a.m. in the Nave  
[Click here for live stream.](#)  
[Click here for Covid Safety protocols.](#)

Ministers: All the People  
Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd  
Moderator: John Kolb  
Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams  
Organist: Jason Handy  
Organist Emeritus: Bob Oehme  
Director of Children and Youth Ministries:  
Ericka Tyler  
Parish Coordinator: Cheri Oakley  
Financial Assistant: Jennifer Mallozzi  
Custodian: Eric Burgher

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## HOLY WEEK

**(All services will also be live streamed)**

- April 2 Palm Sunday Service, 10 a.m., Nave
- April 6 Maundy Thursday Service, 7 p.m., Nave
- April 7 Good Friday Community Service, 7 p.m.  
at Broad St. United Methodist Church
- April 9 Easter Sunday Service, 10 a.m., Nave  
No Sunday School.

## OTHER IMPORTANT APRIL DATES

- April 23 Holy Humor Sunday at 10 a.m.  
followed by "Souper" Luncheon
- April 30 Earth Day Sunday observed, 10 a.m.  
Rev. Beth Frigard, guest preacher

# God's Doors are Open to All



# From the Pastor

Rev. Jason Boyd



Nearly 20 years ago, the celebrated author and Presbyterian minister Frederick Buechner gave an interview called “Easter Hope in a Time of War” to PBS correspondent Kim Lawton. In my own time, the ongoing war in Ukraine and the global implications have been stirring intensely in my soul, and I’ve been thinking a lot about this in recent weeks, as we’ve been moving through Lent and looking forward to the day of resurrection.

Buechner’s words then reflect much of what we hear from folks all around us now. He described himself as a pessimist about the affairs of the world, but he also offered a reminder to us: “But I feel ultimately that beneath the level of all the madness and horror is this saving, life-giving, nourishing, healing, beautiful, mystery is the best word for it — that somehow an elusive, holy plan is being worked out in the affairs of the earth.”

I think that is important for us to keep in our minds and our hearts, that God is working in the world even despite all of this. Not in terms of some grand plan, as though what we are seeing on the news is somehow planned by God (be assured, it’s not), but rather in the ways we see people we know who have heard what God’s Holy Spirit has said to them. In the most recent years, we needed to remind ourselves that Covid would not have the final word; now we must remind ourselves Putin will not have the final word -- that belongs to God. Easter Sunday is many things, and among them is our annual reminder of that, of God’s final word: that we, too, rise in the resurrection.

Toward the end of the interview, the reporter reminded viewers, “On Easter Sunday, in church after church, year after year, sorrow gives way to rejoicing as Christians celebrate the idea that death doesn’t have the final word. Pageantry, singing, flowers, even new clothes all symbolize the Christian belief that Jesus overcame death — and so will all who believe. It’s a victory, Christians say, that transcends time and circumstance.”

That transcendence matters. We may not forget all that happens in our world, but that we still rise up above all that is making our lives so challenging and causing such pain around the globe to rejoice in the good news of Easter matters. Perhaps even more so than usual. The sounding trumpets of Easter morning and glorious processions into churches around the globe will not send Russian troops home from Ukraine. Even more so than usual, our transcendence matters. The Resurrection has come in war and famine, in economic hardship and natural disaster, in times of plague and in good times as well. To borrow and play with words from Maya Angelou, on that day of resurrection even in the worst of times, and still we rise. With Christ who will rise, and still we rise.

I won’t say the A-word yet. It’s not time — that comes Easter morning. But I’m getting ready to. We have Palm Sunday and Holy Week to come, with Maundy Thursday in our Sanctuary and a Community Good Friday service at Broad Street Methodist Church. It is ours to experience those fully as well to bring ourselves the fullest grasp of Easter morning. But make no mistake, it comes. The “it is finished” of Good Friday will not be the final word — never has been and never will be -- that will be “He is risen.” In this time and all times, Jesus Christ is resurrected and we remain people of the resurrection. Amen.

Blessings,

Pastor Jason

Pastor Jason

# A Message from the Nominating Committee

(John Kolb, Jeff Johnson, Mary Williams)

*God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. ~1 Peter 4:10*

## HOW ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO SERVICE?

The Nominating Committee invites you to consider becoming a member of one of the boards of our church.

## WHO CAN SERVE?

Covenant Members (those formally accepted into church membership) may be elected to one of the three leadership groups that carry out the “work” of our church.

## DO YOU HAVE A DESIRE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CURRENT AND FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE CHURCH?

**“The Executive Council shall act on behalf of the Church regarding matters of policy”.**

The key words that describe the responsibilities of this group include; leadership, policy, vision, communication, decision making, collaboration, and representation.

Positions available:

- *Vice Moderator* (assists the Moderator, is the official delegate to represent our church at the annual Association meeting)
- *Member-At-Large* (an advocate for the congregants)
- *Clerk* (keeps a record of church meetings, maintains a membership list, takes care of written communications)

## DO YOU HAVE A BRAIN FOR NUMBERS AND MANAGING RESOURCES?

**“The Board of Trustees shall assume responsibility for the stewardship of Church property and finances.”**

This board oversees budget, finance, personnel, stewardship, investments, missions, memorial gifts, decorative arts, and building & grounds.

Positions available: 3

## DO YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR WORSHIP, HELPING OTHERS, AND FELLOWSHIP?

**“The Deacons shall assume responsibility and provide leadership for matters concerned with the spiritual life of the Church and its relationship to the wider community.”**

This board oversees worship and music, communion, liturgists, ushers, flowers, fellowship, Deacons Fund, Prayer Circle, Christian Education, Helping Hands, and visitation.

Positions Available: 4

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

For more information, or if you are interested in serving on a board, please contact the church office, Pastor Jason, Jeff Johnson (Trustee), John Kolb (Moderator) or Mary Williams (Deacons).




## Music Committee

**Meena Conant, Chair**

It feels as though Christmas was just here as we are nearing Easter! We have continued to award nine students with scholarship money, assisting with the cost of extra private music lessons. These nine students are members of our church and/or community.

The generosity of UCC and the Music Committee’s desire to reach out and foster kids’ music education is an opportunity not to be missed! If anyone knows someone taking private music lessons and would like assistance, please request an application at the church office. The applicant can be school-aged, or beyond, a beginner, or expert! All are welcome!

Monday Evening Musical Club  
presents  
**Realtime Dixieland Band**  
Directed by Mark Sands

 **Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m**  
at United Church of Christ  
11 West Main Street, Norwich

*Free will offering taken to benefit the scholarship fund.*



## Music Ministries

Mary Williams, Director

Congratulations to our organist, Jason Handy, for completing his recital as part of the *Master of Music in Collaborative Piano Degree* he will be receiving from Binghamton University in May .



Mary Williams congratulating Jason Handy after his recital.



The Handbell Choir will be joining in on the fun for *Holy Humor Sunday* on April 23. Two selections will be shared during the worship service: "Joyful Rhythm" and "Sassy

Walk". Both pieces feature special ringing techniques that incorporate mallets and martellato (tapping the bell directly on the table pads).

We hope to make a joyful noise and to bring out smiles and giggles from you, our listeners, as we negotiate difficult chromatic phrases which require challenging bell handling skills. You won't want to miss it!!

## From Jason Handy

Earlier this month, I announced to the congregation that I will be departing my position as Organist at the UCC on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Brad and I will be starting a new chapter of our lives in New York City, where we will both be taking exciting new steps in our careers. It has been a sincere pleasure to share music with you on Sundays for the past three years. I am especially grateful to Mary Williams and Bob Oehme for their guidance and leadership. I have gained invaluable new skills and knowledge during my tenure here, and I will carry these with me in the next steps in my career. I look forward to staying in touch and remaining connected to this special community.

In gratitude,  
Jason Handy

## Holy Humor Sunday

at UCC Norwich

*This minister decided to skip church one Sunday morning and go play golf. He told his assistant that he wasn't feeling well. He drove to a golf course in another city, so nobody would know him.*

*He teed off on the first hole. A huge gust of wind caught his ball, carried it an extra hundred yards and dropped it right in the hole, for a 450-yard hole in one.*

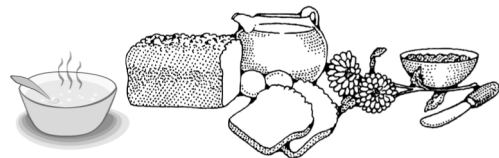
*St. Peter looked at God and said, "What'd you do that for?"*

*God smiled and said, "Who's he going to tell?"*














**There are more where that came from!**

**Join us Sunday, April 23 at 10:0 a.m. for Holy Humor Sunday.** Happiness and merriment will abound as you are filled with the joyful spirit as we worship together. Please dress badly. ☺



## Holy Humor "Souper" Sunday Luncheon - April 23

On April 23<sup>rd</sup> we will be having a Holy Humor "Souper" Sunday luncheon after the service. If you would like to bring your favorite soup, bread or dessert, please sign up in the office. The church will supply table service and beverages. A sign up sheet will be available starting April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>2 <b>Palm/Passion Sunday</b></p> <p>9:00 a.m. - Nursery 10:00 a.m. - Worship/ Communion Sunday School 11:00 a.m. - Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. - Bell Choir 4:00 p.m. - Executive Council, Zoom 6:00 p.m. - LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30 a.m. - AARP Tax Prep, Founders Rm. 10:00 a.m. - UCC Knitting Group, Mayflower Rm. 10:00 a.m. - Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00 p.m. - Tai Chi, Mayflower Rm. 3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:30 a.m. - AARP Tax Prep, Founders Rm. 1:00 p.m. - Piecemakers Circle, Mayflower Rm. 3:30 p.m. - E. Fischer Lessons, Nave 7:00 p.m. - Book Discussion Group, Zoom</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 a.m. - Home Bureau, Mayflower Rm. 10:00 a.m. - Prayer Circle on Zoom 1:00 p.m. - Bulletin Board Group, Founders' Rm. 7:00 p.m. - Choir, Nave</p>	<p>6 <b>Maundy Thursday</b></p> <p>8:30 a.m. - AARP Tax Prep, Founders' Rm. 2:00 p.m. - Book Discussion Group, Zoom 7:00 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Service, Nave</p> 	<p>7 <b>Good Friday</b></p> <p>10:00 a.m. - Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00 p.m. - J. Handy Lessons, upstairs 7:00 p.m. - Community Good Friday Service at Broad St. UMC</p> 	<p>8 <b>Holy Saturday</b></p> 
<p>9 <b>Easter Sunday</b></p> <p>9:00 a.m. - Nursery 10:00 a.m. - Worship No Sunday School 6:00 p.m. - LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom</p> 	<p>10 <b>Easter Monday</b> <i>Church office closed.</i></p> <p>8:30 a.m. - AARP Tax Prep, Founders Rm. 10:00 a.m. - Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00 p.m. - Tai Chi, Mayflower Rm. 3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs 7:00 p.m. - Deacons Mtg., Zoom</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:30 a.m. - AARP Tax Prep, Founders Rm. 1:00 p.m. - Piecemakers Circle, Mayflower Rm. 7:00 p.m. - Book Discussion Group, Zoom</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00 a.m. - Home Bureau, Founders Rm. 10:00 a.m. - Prayer Circle, Zoom 6:00 p.m. Home Bureau Dinner, Founders' Rm., Kitchen 7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Piecemakers Mtg., Founders' Rm. 2:00 p.m. - Book Discussion Group, Zoom</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30 a.m. - AARP Tax Prep, Founders Rm. 10:00 a.m. - Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00 p.m. - J. Handy Lessons, upstairs</p> 	<p>15 <b>Deadline for Scholarship applications</b></p> <p>7:00 p.m. - Monday Evening Musical Club concert in the Nave. See p. 7.</p> 
<p>16</p> <p>9:00 a.m. - Nursery 10:00 a.m. - Worship Sunday School 11:00 a.m. - Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. - Bell Choir 6:00 p.m. - LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>8:30 a.m. - AARP Tax Prep, Founders Rm. 10:00 a.m. - UCC Knitting Group, Mayflower Rm. 10:00 a.m. - Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00 p.m. - Tai Chi, Mayflower Rm. 3:00 p.m. - J. Handy Lessons, upstairs 6:00 p.m. - M. Williams rehearsal, Founders Rm. and Zoom</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:30 a.m. - AARP Tax Prep, Founders Rm. 1:00 p.m. - Piecemakers Circle, Mayflower Rm. 3:30 p.m. - E. Fischer Lessons, Nave</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00 a.m. - Home Bureau, Founders Rm. 10:00 a.m. - Prayer Circle, Zoom 6:10 p.m. - Democratic Comm., Founders Rm. 7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Emmanuel Episcopal Church Soul Kitchen free hot meal 6:00 p.m. - Helping Hands Give-away at the YMCA 7:00 p.m. Trustees Mtg., Zoom</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00 a.m. - Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00 p.m. - J. Handy Lessons, upstairs</p> 	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:00 a.m. - Nursery 10:00 a.m. - Holy Humor Sunday Worship Sunday School 11:00 a.m. - Souper Luncheon - See p. 4. 6:00 p.m. - LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom</p> <p><b>Deadline for May Newsletter</b></p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00 a.m. - Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00 p.m. - Tai Chi, Kitchen 3:00 p.m. - J. Handy Lessons, upstairs 6:30 p.m. Town &amp; Country Garden Club, Founders Rm.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>1:00 p.m. - Piecemakers Circle, Kitchen</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00 a.m. - Home Bureau, Founders Rm. 10:00 a.m. - Prayer Circle, Zoom 7:00 p.m. - Choir, Nave</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00 a.m. - Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00 p.m. - J. Handy Lessons, upstairs</p> 	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:00 a.m. - Nursery 10:00 a.m. - Earth Day Worship w/ Rev. Frigard. See back page. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. - Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. - Bell Choir 6:00 p.m. - LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom</p>						

# Children and Youth Ministries

Ericka Tyler, Director

Greetings Sunday School families! We've just finished the first mini series in our new Grow curriculum entitled

**CATALYST**. We spent the last four weeks performing some exciting (and sometimes messy) science experiments, at the same time discovering four awesome truths:

- ♦ our faith can be a catalyst for action,
- ♦ the faith of others can be a catalyst on our journey,
- ♦ Jesus is the catalyst for a new relationship with God,
- ♦ and we can be catalysts for positive change in the world.



Elephant Toothpaste

Here is what you can look forward to beginning Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>: Our new mini series is entitled **REAL** and will focus on how to develop friendships that are genuine.

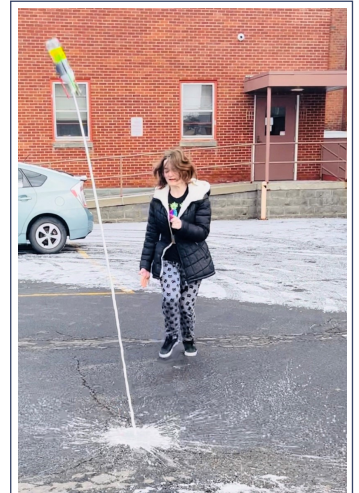
It may be easy to spot a fake friend, but what isn't so easy is figuring out how to make and keep friendships that are real. Sometimes it might feel like it's easier to keep our friendships on the surface. Or maybe we've never experienced real friendship in our life before. Maybe we simply don't know anyone we trust enough to be real with. These days, when "friends" are just a click or a follow away, it's more important than ever to figure out what true friendship really looks like.

In this 4-week series, we'll explore the words and stories of Jesus, the disciples, Paul, Timothy, David, and Jeremiah to help us understand what authentic friendship can look like. Together, we'll discover that real friends choose each other wisely, show each other grace, comfort each other, and help each other grow.

In other news, our Sunday School room transition is coming along nicely! Painting and flooring are now complete! We are going to be decorating and organizing over the next few weeks. Stay tuned for

announcements regarding our new Youth Group!

Finally, I leave you with an example of just one small adventure we had during the last 4 weeks. This is a photo of Leona setting off a soda bottle rocket during one of the **CATALYST** lessons. Yeah, you could say we have a **BLAST** during Sunday School!



Leona Tyler doing an experiment in Sunday School.

I hope you will join us for our next four week adventure into developing **REAL** relationships! Remember, Sunday School is held during the worship service, usually right after the Children's Moment!



## High School Seniors & College

United Church of Christ, First Congregational, Norwich, NY has a long history of gifts bequeathed by former members and memorial gifts given by family and friends. Scholarship amounts vary up to \$1,000.

### General Information

- The successful candidates will be chosen by the Memorial Gifts Scholarship Committee.
- Scholarships can be used for post-secondary undergraduate education.
- Preference will be given to UCC members, UCC employees, and the children/grandchildren of UCC members and UCC employees.
- Awards for graduating seniors will be presented at the Dollars for Scholars Presentation.
- The awards will be made on character, service, scholarship and financial considerations. Some awards have additional criteria as noted.

Applications will be available from the church office or online at [www.uccnorwichny.org/links](http://www.uccnorwichny.org/links) after February 15.

**Deadline for applications is April 15.**



## Deacons Doings

Mary Williams, Chair

A Soup and Bread Luncheon is planned following worship on Sunday April 23. All are invited to attend and bring a friend! Rose Laughlin and Norma Kinney are coordinating. Please call or sign up in the church office.

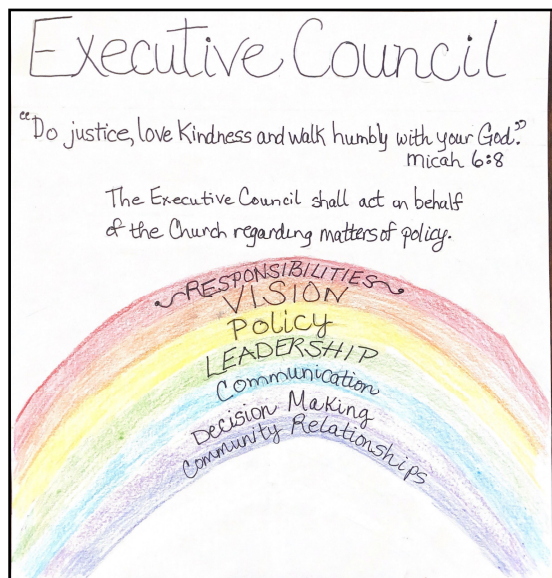


## News from the Founders Room Redecorating Group



The Pastor photos have been reframed and rehung in a new configuration. Thank you Pete Williams!

Below is a sketch of a design for one of the bulletin boards planned for the Founders Room. Work on the bulletin boards will begin the first week in April.



## Easter Memorials



Donations of any amount in honor or in memory of a loved one can be made to the Memorial Gifts Fund for Easter and an honor or memorial will be listed in the Easter bulletin. Please use the form in the weekly bulletin, or contact the church office with what you would like listed in the bulletin. Deadline to be included in the Easter bulletin is Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Prayer Concerns

Let us keep in our prayers the following concerns:

- ◆ families, families that may be going through particularly difficult times, families seeking God's guidance;
- ◆ those who are moving because of their work, those looking for work, and those looking for meaning in their work.
- ◆ those who are ill, who are recovering from illness or surgery, or who anticipate going to the hospital.
- ◆ those who grieve over the death of someone they love.
- ◆ our church, that it might be faithful to its calling, our pastor, all staff members and committees.
- ◆ peace in the world.
- ◆ gay, lesbian and bisexual and transgendered persons, and all those who feel isolated and alone.
- ◆ all those affected by the worldwide Covid-19 Pandemic

### OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO

**Rena Hall** for the loss of her son John Cobb on February 16, 2023.

## April Celebrations



### BIRTHDAYS

8 James Dann  
15 Dawn Hagenbuch  
16 Richie Bonney  
23 Ericka Tyler  
26 Paul Currie  
30 Neil Conant

### ANNIVERSARIES

Vincent and Karen Mallozzi - 4/17/71  
Chad and Meena Conant - 4/21/07

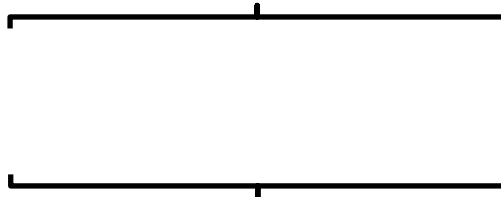


## Earth Day Sunday at UCC Norwich

Join us for worship on Sunday, April 30 for our observance of Earth Day Sunday in the United Church of Christ.

We will be blessed by the presence of Rev. Beth Frigard, founder of the [preachinggreen.com](http://preachinggreen.com) website, who will be preaching and leading worship that day.

Rev. Frigard has previously served on the denominational Environmental Board of the United Church of Christ, and attended the former Andover Newton Theological School along with Pastor Jason.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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