



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



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



**An Open and Affirming Church**

**April 23, 2023**

**10:00 a.m**

**Holy Humor Sunday  
Third Sunday of Easter**

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***PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD***

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE** *Joyful Rhythm*  
Handbell Choir

by Kevin McChesney

**WELCOME**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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\*Please stand in body or in spirit.

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

Cover Art: © Fellowship of the Merry Christians. image of the painting of "The Risen Christ by the Sea" by Jack Jewell, an elderly seascape artist who lived in a small Massachusetts seaport. His friend, Rev. Martin Clarke, one of the chaplains to the New York Fire Department, asked him to paint a representation of a joyful, smiling Risen Christ. At the urging of Rev. Clarke, Jack Jewell donated the painting to The Fellowship of Merry Christians. The painting has since enjoyed a phenomenal grass-roots popularity, appearing in church sanctuaries, social halls, conference and retreat centers, religious schools, and hospitals all over the country. Many see it as a representation of "The Easter Laugh" – God's last laugh on the devil when He raised Jesus from the dead. (from the Joyful Noiseletter)

Call to Worship: The Joyful Noiseletter

Prayer of Invocation: Rev. Thom Shuman

Easter Invitation to Generosity: Rev. Michelle Torigian

Easter Affirmation of Faith: Sister Joan Chittister

Lord's Prayer: Oakton United Methodist Church

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## **GATHERING**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: People of God, did you hear the one about the crooked painter who watered down his paint on a church steeple?

**ALL: No! What happened?**

ONE: The first time it rained – the paint all ran off.

**ALL: No!**

ONE: Then the preacher found out what happened.

**ALL: And what did the preacher say?**

ONE: The preacher said REPAINT, AND THIN NO MORE!

**ALL: (Groan . . .)**

### **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

#### **\*OPENING HYMN**

*When We Are Tempted*  
(Tune: ELLACOMBE)

Insert

## **TIME OF SHARING**

### **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Sassy Walk*  
Handbell Choir

by Linda R. Lamb

### **PASTORAL BLESSING OF PEACE .**

ONE: May the Peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

### **SUNG RESPONSE** *Peace*

by Judy A. Rose

Peace be to you in all you do.

Peace be the way in all you say.

Peace be the light that shines so bright from your heart on the world this day.

Peace, peace, peace, peace. Peace be to you in all you do.

Peace, peace, peace, peace. Peace be to you in all you do.

### **EASTER INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

ONE: We are people of the Resurrection.

**ALL: We are God's people, profoundly grateful for the incredible gift of the resurrected Christ.**

ONE: We hear God's call to live into the Resurrection in all we do.

**ALL: God calls for us to give in a spirit of abundance.**

ONE: Through our gifts, we are able to reach many people outside of the church's walls.

**ALL: Through our treasures, our mission continues – even when the world slows down.**

ONE: With hearts of hope and openness, we pray together...

**ALL: Divine Tranquility, may we embrace your steadfast peace. Through your peace, may we confidently give our treasures, talent, and time in order for the work of the church to continue. Through your peace, may our congregation utilize these gifts wisely to reach a world filled with anxiety and uncertainty and to share your hope and love. Amen.**

*Offering plates are located at both Nave doors for your convenience.*

## ***WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD***

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4a

Pew Bible OT p. 683

**SERMON** *A Time to Laugh*

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

### **INTERLUDE**

"Turtles" from *Carnival of the Animals*

Camille Saint-Saëns

## **AFFIRMING OUR FAITH**

**ONE:** We are Easter people. We are people of the Resurrection.

**ALL:** **In Easter we see the transformation of the Jesus who rises from the dead in Jerusalem to the Jesus who rises in us.**

**ONE:** The Resurrection of Jesus is about coming to grips with the transformed and transforming presence of Christ then, now, and always.

**ALL:** **Once that happens, our lives are never again the same. Our lives begin anew.**

**ONE:** The Resurrection goes on and on and on forever.

**ALL:** **Every time Jesus rises in our own hearts in new ways, the Resurrection happens again.**

**ONE:** Every time we see Jesus where we did not recognize him before—in the faces of the poor, in the love of the unloved, in the revelatory moments of life, Jesus rises anew.

**ALL:** **Once the Christ-life rises in us, we rise to new life as well. Christ is risen; we are risen.**

## **SHARING OF JOYS/CONCERNS**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER, HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY VERSION**

**Our Father in heaven, let Your holy name be known, let Your kingdom come, and Your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today the bread that we need, and forgive us our wrongs, and OK, we'll forgive those who have done wrong to us, too.**

**Do not lead us into trial, but save us from evil. For we want for You alone to rule in our hearts.**

**You have power to transform, and in the light of Your smile is Your glory. Amen.**

## **\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Go Tell It On the Mountain*

Insert

(Holy Humor Sunday version)

(Tune: AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL)

## **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Sabre Dance*

Aram Khachaturian

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## **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.

**THERE IS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** today. Children are welcome in the Nave.

**PASTOR JASON** will be away from Norwich from after worship on Sunday, April 23 until the evening of Thursday, May 4. During that time, Rev. Laura Wade of Christ Lutheran Church on North Broad Street will be available for emergency pastoral care; she can be reached by email at [acl2876@outlook.com](mailto:acl2876@outlook.com), or by phone at 607-227-1901.

**HOLY HUMOR “SOUPER” SUNDAY LUNCHEON TODAY** after the service. The church will supply table service and beverages. All are welcome.

**HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE** is holding their annual Spring Plant sale. There are many plants to choose from. See the bulletin board for a brochure with details and an order form. Deadline to order is May 3rd.

**WE ARE STILL WORKING** to provide a safe and clean environment for worship and other activities. You can read our full COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS posted on the bulletin board and online. There is a button on our homepage: <[www.uccnorwichny.org](http://www.uccnorwichny.org)>.

## **CALENDAR**

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

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 23**

- 9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Humor Sunday Worship, Nave  
No Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. "Souper" Potluck Luncheon, Founders Room
- 6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

### **MONDAY, APRIL 24**

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders Room
- 3:00 p.m. J. Handy Lessons, upstairs
- 6:30 p.m. Garden Club, Founders Room, Kitchen

### **TUESDAY, APRIL 25**

- 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Kitchen

### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26**

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

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 27**

- 4:00 p.m. Monday Evening Musical Club Scholarship Auditions,  
Mayflower Rm., Nave

### **FRIDAY, APRIL 28**

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

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 30**

- 9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00 a.m. Earth Day Sunday Worship, Nave  
Guest Speaker: Rev. Beth Frigard  
(Sunday School K-8)
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

**April 23, 2023**

**TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:**

**Pastor and Teacher:** Rev. Jason Boyd

**Liturgist:** Ed Tucker

**Director of Music Ministries:** Mary Williams

**Organist:** Jason Handy

**Handbell Choir:** Sarah Benson, Megan Carpenter, Maxine Gage,  
Elspeth Hunter, Michael Moren, Amy Rogers, Destinie Smith,  
Dan Thompson, Ericka Tyler, Leona Tyler, Pete Williams  
Mary Williams-Director

**Live Stream:** Jennifer Mallozzi, Chris McSweeney

**Sunday Sexton:** Elspeth Hunter

**Nursery:** Fiora Breese

**Usher:** Miranda Hunter

**Luncheon:** Rose Laughlin, Norma Kinney

**NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 4/30**

Usher:

Liturgist: Katie Izzo

Flowers:

Coffee Hour:

**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

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**CHURCH OFFICE OPEN**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.