



UCCNews

JULY/AUGUST 2023

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

www.uccnorwichny.org



CONTACT US

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CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS (July 5 - August 25)

Monday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 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: Pete Williams
Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams
Organist Emeritus: Bob Oehme
Director of Children/Youth Ministries: Ericka Tyler
Parish Coordinator: Cheri Oakley
Financial Assistant: Jennifer Mallozzi
Sexton: Eric Burgher

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Congratulations to **Mary Williams** who celebrates her **20th Anniversary** as our Director of Music Ministries on July 1st. Thank you for your many years of faithful service. We have been blessed by your many gifts.

God's Doors are Open to All



From the Pastor

Rev. Jason Boyd



This is not just any random lighthouse. :)

There is a story behind it, one appropriate as we enter into the month of July, and even more so with the reminder that we are *somewhat* winding down for “Summer Mode,” and that this newsletter is for both July and August. The lighthouse you see is in Burlington, Newfoundland, Canada. I share it with you as in a few days my little Scarlett and I will soon be sleeping inside of it (honest!) as we head off on our own Summer Vacation.

This was supposed to have happened in July 2020, and if you’ve heard me talking about this trip, you may have even heard me refer to it as #CovidRevengeTrip. Covid time took much from us, and this is one of the many places I was supposed to have visited that Summer; I truly have had this trip on my mind for the past 3 years. There are more places in Newfoundland that I have wanted to go for a long time. In the Northwest corner of the island is L’Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site, the only extant Norse/Viking settlement in North America. A few hours south of there is Gros Morne National Park, the only place on Earth where the Earth’s mantle comes to the surface and you can actually walk on it. A bit east is Twillingate, a great place for watching the icebergs move past. And, all over the province, are wonderful places for hikes along the oceanfront. There is little I love more than walking along the ocean with my dog – Schnauzers are remarkable hikers – and little else is as good for my Spirit.

As our office is having a slight break from the normal rigors of the non-Summer year, I hope that you will find something like that for yourself this Summer. Maybe a trip, maybe something at home, maybe both. In Matthew 11, Jesus tells us, “Come to me, all you that

are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” Our own rest and recuperation is important not only to our physical health, but to our mental and spiritual health. I bid you to find that space – physical, mental, or spiritual – which allows you rest and brings you rejuvenation. Your Spirit is beautiful, wonderfully made, and deserving of that special kind of care.

While you will find this information elsewhere, I’ll include it here as well. I am leaving for Newfoundland right after worship on July 2, and I will be back on July 25. I do not recall having taken 3 weeks of vacation at one time before, but there is so much I want to see and do there and after having lost this trip in 2020, I am going to make the most of it. Rev. Mary Rublee from Broad Street United Methodist Church will be available for Emergency Pastoral Care, and you can reach her at (607) 371-5077. Pastor Mary is one of my favorite people in Norwich, and I hope you will not hesitate to be in touch with her if you need to. Also, thank her for her leadership in this year’s Vacation Bible Camp.

And find your rest. This is the time. Rest in the sunshine of the Summer, rest listening to the gentle rains which replenish the land, rest knowing Jesus is present with you in this and every moment.

Blessings,

Pastor Jason

Pastor Jason

Pride Sunday

We observed Open and Affirming Sunday on June 11, 2023. You are beloved by God and welcome here.



Children and Family Ministries

Ericka Tyler

Before our summer break, the Sunday School program wrapped up its final series entitled “Exchange” where we delved more into the lives of Paul and Timothy and learned the importance of leaning on and learning from each other.

We discovered the exchanges that stick with us most are the ones we have with people who impact our lives for the better. These exchanges could be things like receiving or giving meaningful advice, providing wisdom, or encouragement between our friends, family members, coaches, teachers, or younger people we’ve developed relationships with.

We specifically examined the book of 2nd Timothy and read about advice the apostle Paul gave to Timothy (a guy he was mentoring) because even we can still learn from Paul’s wisdom today. Through scripture, we saw how we can all exchange wisdom with each other (no matter our age) by helping each other discover our gifts, develop discernment (make good decisions) get equipped (prepared for action), and find strength when we feel weak. The kids were challenged to think about and make these kinds of exchanges in their everyday interactions at home and school.

On June 11, we celebrated our last week of Sunday School with music, games, and snacks. There were even ice cream cones! Sunday School is set to resume on September 17th!

ATTENTION MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH!

We plan to offer a weekly summer youth group for students in grades 7-12 beginning on Sunday July 9 and running through Sunday August 27 (8 weeks). This will be a mostly unstructured time where students can come to relax and unwind, play some games, have snacks (and maybe pizza!), and spend time hanging with their friends in a safe and welcoming environment. While this time will not include a structured curriculum, it is my hope that the students may want to consider a small summer mission project to work on as a way of giving back to the community. Youth group will run each Sunday from 12:00 pm to around 1:30 pm. We hope to see you there!

(When school resumes in the fall, the tentative plan will be to adjust to biweekly youth group meetings, most likely still on Sundays, though the time may change slightly due to bell choir rehearsal.)

God Bless and have a wonderful summer!

Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Elspeth Hunter**, our Sunday Sexton and member of the church on her high school graduation and scholarship awards! Pictured above is Elspeth accepting a Top Ten Scholar award, sponsored by our church, at the annual Community Honors Banquet held June 21, 2023 at the Canasawacta Country Club.

Deacons Monthly Donation to Helping Hands



Helping Hands Norwich holds a monthly give-away on the Third Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm at the Norwich YMCA. Our Deacons support this effort with personal hygiene bags, which are put together and dropped off every month by Rose Laughlin. If you would like to donate toward this just indicate “Helping

Hands” on your check or envelope. If you’d like to help, please talk to Rose.

The Place

by Norma Kinney

Member of our Deacon Board and
The Place Board of Directors

Do you know what Chenango and Otsego Counties have in common? If you said that both counties are child care deserts you would be correct. The term "Child Care Desert" is used by the state to identify areas where there are few child care facilities for children between the ages of 18 months to 5 years old. In Chenango County there is one opening for every four children.

For two years The Place has been working diligently to be awarded grants, and locate a suitable building for a child care center. In the Spring of 2022 The Place was close to announcing that a child care center was soon to become a reality, however, the promised funds were no longer available.

In February of this year the Board of Directors voted to proceed with the process of opening a Child Care Center in Norwich. With state funding being questionable, the decision was a leap of faith, as The Place would be responsible for raising the majority of funds for the project.

In late April The Place decided to sponsor a golf tournament to kick off the fund raising. The employees and board members worked together to organize the tournament, secure a golf course, get sponsors, make cookies, set up the day of the tournament and a host of other tasks.

For many years UCC has been a faithful contributor to The Place as well as serving on the Board of Directors. This year our church sponsored the golf tournament with a donation. Mary and Pete Williams, and Janet Johnson and Sharon Wilson played in and supported the tournament through the purchase of raffle tickets, skins and Mulligans.



Mary William, Pete Williams, Janet Johnson,
Sharon Wilson

At last report the tournament raised over \$4,500 toward the Child Care Center. With continued success, the tournament may become an annual event.

To find out more about The Place or to donate, visit their website at www.theplacenorwich.com.



We've Got Mail



Dear UCC,

The Friends of Rogers Board of Directors and staff want to thank you for your generous donation. Rest assured the funds will be used to continue to provide outstanding educational opportunities that excite, inspire and motivate people of all ages. The hiking trails and programs we make available are designed to allow all to enjoy, understand, appreciate and protect our natural environment. Your support has helped make this possible. We realize you have options to support various other organizations and your decision to aid us in our mission for a protected environment is very much appreciated.

David Carson

Executive Director, Friends of Rogers

Dear UCC,

Thank you for the use of the Founders Room. We appreciate being able to continue to meet and do our activities.

Norwich Home Bureau

Dear UCC,

I wanted to express my sincere appreciation for the [Top Ten Student] award and for recognizing my achievements. This means a lot to me and I'm grateful for the opportunity to represent my school.

Thank you again.

Adrianna Palmer

Recognition of Long Term Members



Long Term Members: Gary Gray, Allan Sawyer, Ed Tucker, Pat Whitmore, Jane Prime, Pastor Jason.

Every year on the day of our Annual Meeting in June we honor our long-term members of 40, 45 and 50 and above years of faithful membership. Congratulations and thank you to the following:

72 Years

Edwin Tucker

71 Years

David Hall

67 Years

Patricia Whitmore

63 Years

Jane Prime

57 Years

Allan Sawyer

53 Years

Gary Gray
Victoria Gray



Save the Date!

Saturday, August 26

Elizabeth Orleski of Drumzzzone will be giving an African Jembe drum lesson at the Guernsey Library on Saturday, August 26, 2023. (Time to be determined.) We are sponsoring the fun, musical experience for anyone who wants to participate!



Board Members 2023-2024

Updated after the vote at the June Annual meeting on June 18, 2023.

Executive Council

Pete Williams, Moderator
Jeff Johnson, Immediate Past-Moderator
Chris McSweeney, Member-at-Large
Mary Williams, Church Clerk

Board of Deacons

Pat Burke
Norma Kinney
Rose Laughlin
Karen Mallozzi
Deb Phelps
Jessica Posner

Board of Trustees

Wade Burke
Gary Gray
Jennifer Mallozzi
Bob Oehme
Judy Smith
Ed Tucker

Become a Medical Foster Home Caregiver for Veterans

The Syracuse VA is looking for compassionate caregivers to provide a safe and home-like environment for Veterans, as a nursing home alternative. Care for the Veteran would be provided in your home with support from the VA and our medical Home Care Team. Caregivers must have prior caregiving experience (formal or informal) and have the compassion and motivation to provide 24/7 supervision/care to Veterans placed in their home. For more information contact Syracuse VA Medical Foster Home Coordinator at 315-425-4400 ext. 51086 or Syracuse VA Medical Foster Home Program Support Assistant at 315-4400-ext. 51087. Or visit https://www.va.gov/geriatrics/pages/Medical_Foster_Homes.asp



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship/ Communion 11:00am Coffee Hour 6:00pm LGBTQ+ Fellowship	3 Church Office Closed 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Rm.	4 Independence Day Church Office Closed	5 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 11:00am Free hot dog lunch at Emmanuel Episcopal Church 	6 10:00am H. Rauscher, Founders Rm.	7 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom	8
9 9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Hour 12:00pm Youth Group, upstairs 6:00pm LGBTQ+ Fellowship	10 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Rm.	11 10:00am H. Rauscher, Founders Rm. 1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen	12 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 11:00am Free hot dog lunch at Emmanuel Episcopal Church	13 10:00am H. Rauscher, Founders Rm. 1:00pm Piecemakers meeting, Founders Rm.	14 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom	15
16 9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Hour 12:00pm Youth Group, upstairs 6:00pm LGBTQ+ Fellowship	17 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Rm.	18 10:00am H. Rauscher, Founders Rm. 1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen 	19 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 11:00am Free hot dog lunch at Emmanuel Episcopal Church 4:00pm Laundry Love at Byrne Dairy 6:10pm Democratic Committee, Founders Rm.	20 10:00am H. Rauscher, Founders Rm. 6:00pm Helping Hands Giveaway at the Norwich YMCA	21 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom	22
23 9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Hour 12:00pm Youth Group, upstairs 6:00pm LGBTQ+ Fellowship	24 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Rm.	25 10:00am H. Rauscher, Founders Rm. 1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen	26 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 11:00am Free hot dog lunch at Emmanuel Episcopal Church	27 10:00am H. Rauscher, Founders Rm.	28 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom	29 9:00am Diaper Giveaway at First Baptist Church
	Vacation Bible Camp July 23-26 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. See back cover for details.				The Wizard of Oz - July 28, 29, 30. See p. 10 for details.	
30 9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Hour 12:00pm Youth Group, upstairs 6:00pm LGBTQ+ Fellowship	31 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Rm.					

The Norwich Muslim Community meets daily at 9:00pm and Friday afternoons for prayer.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00am H. Rauscher, Founders Rm. 1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen	2 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 11:00am Free hot dog lunch at Emmanuel Episcopal Church	3 10:00am H. Rauscher, Founders Rm.	4 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom	5
6 9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship/ Communion 11:00am Coffee Hour 12:00 p.m. Youth Group, upstairs 6:00pm LGBTQ+ Fellowship	7 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Rm.	8 10:00am H. Rauscher, Founders Rm. 1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen	9 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 11:00am Free hot dog lunch at Emmanuel Episcopal Church	10 10:00am H. Rauscher, Founders Rm. 1:00pm Piecemakers Meeting, Founders Rm.	11 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 	12
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27 9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship/ 11:00am Coffee Hour 12:00 p.m. Youth Group, upstairs 6:00pm LGBTQ+ Fellowship	28 <i>Regular Church Office Hours Resume</i> 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Rm. 	29 10:00am H. Rauscher, Founders Rm. 1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen	30 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 11:00am Free hot dog lunch at Emmanuel Episcopal Church	31 10:00am H. Rauscher, Founders Rm.		

The Norwich Muslim Community meets daily at 9:00pm and Friday afternoons for prayer.

News from the UCC New York Conference Annual Meeting

Better Together: One Body in Christ
June 15 - 17, 2023

by Mary and Pete Williams

All the annual reports of the conference can be found at the following website:
<<https://uccny.org/annualmeeting>>



Standing left to right: Reverend Ryan Henderson, Reverend Gary Ferner, Pastor Mark Bigelow, Peter Williams. Seated: Reverend Dr. Marsha Williams, and Mary Williams

The NY Conference Golf Outing took place ahead of the annual meeting on Thursday June 15, 2023 at the Seneca Hickory Stick Golf Course in Lewiston, NY. Participating were Dr. Marsha Williams, Transitional Conference Minister; Reverend Ryan Henderson, Associate Conference Minister for Communication and Online Community; Reverend Gary Ferner, Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call; Pastor Mark Bigelow of The Congregational Church of Huntington UCC, Mary and Peter Williams of UCC Norwich.



Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams, Interim Conference Minister

"Pulpit and pew; one purpose, one mission. Unity and love for one another is at the heart of all we do."
-Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams, Interim Conference Minister

Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams, gave a "state of the conference" address. She shared several celebrations including the success of the NY School of Ministry, which has trained and qualified 7 new pastors. This growing program was created as an alternate pathway for lay leaders and clergy who wish to further their theological education but are not able to attend a seminary program. Rev. Dr. Williams also mentioned that the NY Conference will be a sponsor at the NYState Fair Pride Booth.

As the Interim Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Williams says her work is to consider the future of the conference, recognizing that it is time to shift to a more proactive mission. This will include a reevaluation of goals, mission, and purpose in order to create a more just society. Several action steps have been taken including creating a Capital Campaign to raise money for new Ministries (goal \$2K); creating a Commission on Justice to consider climate and environmental justice issues; the creation of a Diversity Task Force and reviewing the resulting recommendations. In response, one By-Law amendment was proposed and voted into being at the meeting to expand the Conference Board to include three additional "member-at-large" seats to be filled by persons of color. To the local churches, Rev. Dr. Williams reminds us that pandemic survival is not *ministry*. We must step outside our comfort zone for the sake of ministries. Conversation is futile. It is her hope that local churches will seek opportunities for justice work in their communities.

continued on next page

Save the date!
The next NY Conference Annual
meeting will be held in
Binghamton
May 30-31, and June 1, 2024





Keynote Speaker, Rev. Bishop Dwayne Royster

New York Conference Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker Rev. Bishop Dwayne Royster currently serves as Senior Pastor of Faith United Church of Christ in the North Michigan Park Section of Washington, DC.

Reverend Royster spoke passionately about servant leadership and inspiring and activating the leadership skills of others. He challenged the UCC, which is effective at “witnessing” and identifying injustices, to become better at “winning” or causing change. Rather than accepting the world the way it is, we are called to advocate for change and to address the causes of injustice. Churches and other organizations can do this by calling out structures that are unjust, and by standing together, facing problems jointly. He introduced the community leader of “Voice Buffalo” and a local church pastor, both from the Buffalo area, who shared their experiences of coming together in a restorative interfaith response to the May 14, 2022 Tops Market shooting. They emphasized *promoting people to purpose* using an African proverb that says “*if you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.*”

Practical Resources for Churches:

Everyone Has a Calling-Ours is Helping You!

At the NY Conference Annual Meeting, we were introduced to some of the PRC staff. The PRC has many recorded seminars and resources whose topics include: Books & Bible Studies, Church Tech, Environmental Stewardship, Social Justice, Stewardship & Finance. We are able to access these resources for free through the UCCNY Conference’s subscription membership. Visit Prcli.org



New York Conference to Support Church World Service efforts to build, collect and distribute **Period Packs**.



It was announced at Annual Meeting, that the UCCNY Conference will be supporting Church World Service in raising awareness about Period Poverty, and collecting Period Packs put together by local UCC individuals and congregations. The Conference Goal is 250 packs by December 21, 2023.

You can help end period poverty. Period.

Menstrual Justice is the term used to describe efforts that reduce Period Poverty, where women don’t have hygiene or menstrual products available to them. You can learn more about CWS efforts at this link - <https://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/period-packs/>



LOOKING FOR A FUN WAY TO BE MORE ACTIVE?



Bingocize® is a 10-week health promotion program that combines the game of bingo with fall prevention exercises (seated or standing). Come play bingo and win prizes while learning techniques to reduce falls and increase cognition.

Monday and Wednesday 10:00am – 11:00am
Guernsey Memorial Library

Next Orientation: 7/10/23

Next Class: 7/17/2023

Call to register at 607-337-1660 or 607-337-1770

Presented by: Chenango County Public Health and Area Agency on Aging.

Space Donated by Guernsey Memorial Library
**Exercise for your body, mind, and spirit
JOIN THE FUN!!**



Congratulations Scholarship Recipients

The Memorial Gifts Committee is pleased to announce the following scholarship awards for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Memorial Gifts Scholarship

Josiah Tyler

Alexander and Alice Neill Scholarship

Elspeth Hunter

Donald Tracy Scholarship

Elspeth Hunter, Isabella Natoli, Aidan Rogers

Theodore P. Dolgos Scholarship

Josiah Tyler, Samantha Gage

Margaret and Theron Hust Scholarship

Samantha Gage

UCC Scholarship

Shea Breese, Aria Maholchic



Our largest cast ever comes to the NTCI stage to bring you the songs and characters you know and love!

Friday, July 28 at 7:00pm

Saturday, July 29 at 7:00pm

Sunday, July 30 at 2:00pm

\$20 for adults

\$10 for children under 12.

Martin W. Kappel Theater, 27 W. Main St., Norwich

Tickets are available at <https://norwichtheatercompany.org/>

Several members of our congregation are involved in this show.

HIVSTOPSWITHME.ORG

presents the
1st Annual

**CHENANGO
COUNTY
PRIDE
ALLIANCE, INC.**



FESTIVAL

August 26th, 2023

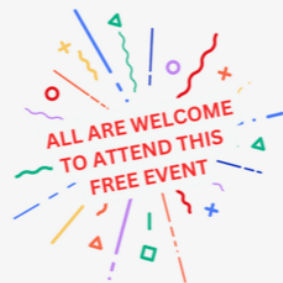
Noon-6:00 pm

OPENING CEREMONY AT 12:15 PM

Boname Park

4364 COUNTY RD 32, OXFORD- RAIN OR SHINE

**JOIN US FOR A DAY FILLED
WITH:
FOOD
VENDORS
ENTERTAINMENT
AND PRIDE!**



Check our Facebook, Website, and Instagram for Festival updates!

chenangocountypridealliance.org



Our church is a sponsor of the First ever Chenango County Pride Festival (see above). We are listed on the sponsor materials, and we will have a booth at the event. Would you like to participate? Please leave your name on the signup sheet in the office, and more information will be provided to you when it becomes available. Thanks!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

★ ★ ★ JULY

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 JoAnn Sprout
- 4 Gary Gray
- 6 Galen Morehead
- 11 Lilit Danielyan
Melodie Posner
- 12 Jason Handy
- 13 Jeff Johnson
George Prime
- 15 Meena Conant
Alan Ingraham
- 16 Elissa Sawyer
- 20 Thomas Brewer
- 22 Terrilyn Ingraham

ANNIVERSARIES

Alan and Terri Ingraham 7/22/1975
Pete and Mary Williams 7/27/2013

🌸 AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Pat Sternberg
- 7 Donna Wood Craig
Allan Sawyer
- 11 Benjamin Metz-White
- 20 Eli Craig
- 26 Chris McSweeney

ANNIVERSARIES

Darcy Gates-Brewer and Ken Brewer 8/1/1998
Jason Handy and Brad Morrison 8/6/2022
Tim and Mary Carson 8/20/1988
Jessica and Justin Posner 8/25/2007



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
- ◆ the people of Ukraine and Russia

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Donna and Michael Moren for the loss of Donna's mother, Clara Horten who died on June 7, 2023

Bonnie Carpenter for the loss of her husband Henry Carpenter who died on June 10, 2023.

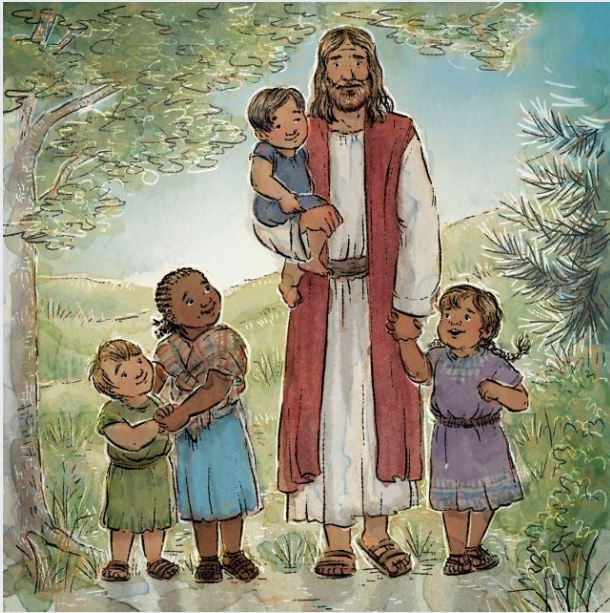


Summer Office Hours

July 3 and 4
Closed

July 5 - August 25
Monday through Thursday
8:00am to 12:00pm

"Holy Ever After" Vacation Bible Camp



WHEN: Sunday July 23rd -
Wednesday July 26th

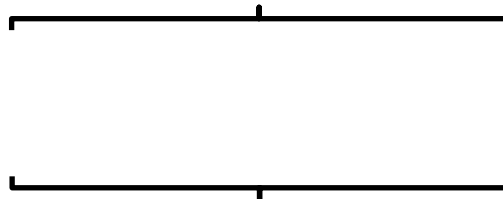
TIME: 5:30PM - 7:30 PM

WHERE: Christ Lutheran Church
94 North Broad St

WHO: Open to ages 4 - 12

CONTACT: Broad Street United
Methodist 607.334.2895

This VBC program is a community based Christian Vacation Bible Camp program associated with the following churches in Norwich: Christ Lutheran Church, Broad Street United Methodist Church, United Church of Christ and First Baptist Church.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

11 West Main Street
Norwich, NY 13815-1612

