



United Church of Christ
Norwich, New York



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



An Open and Affirming Church

July 16, 2023

10:00 a.m

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Song*

by Flor Peeters

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Come and worship, everyone on earth, everywhere
the sun shines,

ALL: Let's praise God together!

ONE: For listening when we call, answering our prayers,
forgiving our mistakes, and providing what we need:

ALL: Let's praise God together!

ONE: Come and worship, everyone on earth, everywhere
the sun shines,

ALL: Let's praise God together!

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Call to Worship – Rev. Christine Longhurst
Prayer of Invocation - Rev. John Birch

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PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***OPENING HYMN** *Praise to the Living God* #8
(Tune: DIADEMATA)

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

(Children are welcome to stay in the front pew during the choir anthem.)

SPECIAL MUSIC

Thy Word

words and music by
Michael W. Smith and Amy Grant
arranged by Jack Schrader

Tenors: Michael Moren, Pete Williams,
Basses: Craig Lawson and Wadeanthony Burke

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.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND GENEROSITY

DISCIPLESHIP PLEDGE

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 119:105-112

Pew Bible OT p. 630

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

Pew Bible NT p. 50

REFLECTION

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE

Ach Gott, von Himmel sieh darein

Johann Pachelbel

AFFIRMING OUR 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

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Pastor Jason recorded)

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.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

***CLOSING HYMN** *Creator God, Creating Still* # 278
(Tune: ST. ANNE C.M.)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *March in G* Henry Smart
Arranged by Franklin Ritter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NURSERY CARE is available for children up to the age of five beginning at 9:00am - up the stairs at the front of the building.

PASTOR JASON IS AWAY FOR SUMMER VACATION until July 25. During that time, Rev. Mary Rublee from Broad Street United Methodist Church will be available for emergency pastoral care. Her contact information is available in the church office and the July newsletter.

SIGN UP TO USHER - There are many open dates in July and August. Take a look at the bulletin board and pick a date to sign up.

THE GUERNSEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY has many activities taking place this summer. Every Wednesday in July and August they present "Movies Under the Stars" in the library park at dusk (about 8:30 p.m.) In the library meeting room if it rains. There are also craft classes and performances for children and families. Check out our bulletin board for details, or call the library at 607-334-4034

SAVE THE DATE - August 26 Elizabeth Orleski of Drumzzone will be giving an African Jembe drum lesson at the Guernsey Library. Time to be determined. We are sponsoring this fun, musical experience for anyone who wants to participate.

THE WIZARD OF OZ will be presented by the Norwich Theater Company on July 28 and 29 at 7:00 p.m. and July 30 at 2:00 p.m. Several members of our congregation are involved in this show. \$20 for adults, \$10 for children under 12 at the Martin W. Kappel Theater, 27 W. Main St., Norwich. Tickets available at <<https://norwichtheatercompany.org>>

SUMMER YOUTH GROUP for grades 7-12 Sundays, July 9 through August 27, 12:00pm - 1:30pm. 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.

WE'RE GOING TO PRIDE! Our church is a sponsor of the first ever Chenango County Pride Festival, which will be held from 12:00pm to 6:00pm on August 26, 2023 at Boname Park in Oxford. 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.

OUR KINDRED IN CHRIST AT BROAD STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH have invited us to volunteer to be part of their monthly community meals which they serve to whomever needs them, free of charge. If you would like more information about participating, please leave your name on the sign up sheet in the office.

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 on our website.

CALENDAR

The Chenango Muslim Community meets upstairs daily at 9:30pm & Fridays at 1:30pm

SUNDAY, JULY 16

9:00am Nursery, upstairs
10:00am Worship, Nave
11:00am Coffee Hour
12:00pm Youth Group (grades 7-12), upstairs
6:00pm LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

MONDAY, JULY 17

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Room

TUESDAY, JULY 18

1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Kitchen

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
11:00am Free hotdog lunch at Emmanuel Episcopal Church
4:00pm Laundry Love at Byrne Dairy Laundromat
6:10pm Democratic Committee Meeting, Founders Room

THURSDAY, JULY 20

6:00pm Helping Hands Giveaway at the Norwich YMCA

FRIDAY, JULY 21

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

SUNDAY, JULY 23

9:00am Nursery, upstairs
10:00am Worship, Nave
11:00am Coffee Hour
12:00pm Youth Group (grades 7-12), upstairs
5:30pm Vacation Bible Camp starts tonight. See insert for details.
6:00pm LGBTQ+ Fellowship, Zoom

July 16, 2023

*The flowers are given
in memory of Ethel M. Kinney
from her daughters
Paula, Laura, Donna, Linda, Debra and Norma*

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd

Liturgists: Gary Gray, Mary Williams

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Organist: Robert Oehme

Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Ericka Tyler

Live Stream: Jennifer Mallozzi, Chris McSweeney

Sunday Sexton: Elspeth Hunter

Nursery: Fiora Breese

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 7/23

Usher:

Liturgists: Miranda Hunter, John Kolb

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: Pete Williams

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES: Mary Williams

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES: Ericka Tyler

PARISH COORDINATOR: Cheri Oakley

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT: Jennifer Mallozzi



CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

Monday - Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.