



“““

**I WAS
NAKED**

AND YOU GAVE ME CLOTHING,

**I WAS
SICK**

AND YOU TOOK CARE OF ME,

**I WAS
IN PRISON**

AND YOU VISITED ME.””

MATTHEW 25:36, NRSV

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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

July 23, 2023

10:00 a.m

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Ave Maria* Charles Gounod (1818-1893)
Based on the First Prelude by J.S. Bach

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Gather us in, the lost and the lonely, the broken and breaking, the tired and aching, who long for nourishment found at your feast.

ALL: Gather us in.

ONE: Gather us in, the done and the doubting, the wishing and wondering, the puzzled and pondering, who long for the company found at your feast.

ALL: Gather us in.

ONE: Gather us in, the proud and pretentious, the sure and superior, the never inferior, who long for the leveling found at your feast.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Call to Worship from Iona

Prayer of Invocation from Mennonite Church Blog

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ALL: Gather us in.

ONE: Gather us in, the bright and the bustling, the stirrers, the shakers, the kind laughter makers, who long for the deeper joys, found at your feast.

ALL: Gather us in.

ONE: Gather us in, from corner or limelight, from mansion or campsite, from fears and obsession, from tears and depression, from untold excesses, from treasured successes, to meet, to greet, be offered a seat, be joined at the vine, be offered new wine, to become like the least to be found at the feast.

ALL: Gather us in.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***OPENING HYMN**

If We Claim to Love Our Neighbor
(Tune: NETTLETON)

Insert

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SPECIAL MUSIC *God Help the Outcasts*

from *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* Music by Alan Menken

Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

Arranged by Tim J. Spencer

Elspeth Hunter, soloist

(*Elspeth is the recipient of UCC Music Lessons Scholarships.*)

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 (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 13

Pew Bible OT p. 545

Matthew 25:31-46

Pew Bible NT p. 29

REFLECTION

Daniel Auwarter

Chenango County Department of Social Services

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE *Sarabande from Suite XI*

George Frederick Handel (1685-1759)

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

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** *Lead Us From Death To Life* # 581
(Tune: WORLD PEACE PRAYER)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Hornpipe from Water Music*
George Frederick Handel (1685-1759)

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.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on Monday, July 24. Cheri Oakley, Parish Coordinator will be working from home 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR HENRY CARPENTER on Friday, July 28 at Hidden Springs Brewhouse (170 County Rd. 31, Norwich) beginning at 4:30 p.m. The Realtime Dixieland Band will be playing. Bonnie Carpenter will be in attendance. All are invited to bring an instrument if they wish. And folks are asked to find *When You're Smiling* on their phones and be prepared to sing Henry's favorite song. This event is supposed to be FUN!

SAVE THE DATE - August 26 Elizabeth Orleski of Drumzzzone 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 23

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

MONDAY, JULY 24

Church Office Closed Today.

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

TUESDAY, JULY 25

1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Kitchen

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
11:00am Free hotdog lunch at Emmanuel Episcopal Church

FRIDAY, JULY 27

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
4:30pm Celebration of Life for Henry Carpenter, Hidden Springs
Brewhouse (See announcements.)

SATURDAY, JULY 29

9:00 am Diaper Giveaway at First Baptist Church

SUNDAY, JULY 30

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

July 23, 2023

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Liturgists: Miranda Hunter, John Kolb

Guest Speaker: Daniel Auwarter, Chenango County Department of Social Services

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Pianist: Anita Humer

Soloist: Elspeth Hunter

Live Stream: Jennifer Mallozzi, Chris McSweeney

Sunday Sexton: Elspeth Hunter

Nursery: Fiora Breese

Coffee Hour: Norma Kinney

Flowers: Pat Burke

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS 7/30

Usher:

Liturgist: Ed Tucker

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.