

“*Woman,
great is your faith!
Let it be done
for you
as you wish.*”

Matthew 15:28, NRSV



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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

August 20, 2023

10:00 a.m

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God of our days and lives,

ALL: Teach us to live our lives to the fullest. Teach us to take joy in the many blessings you have showered us with. Teach us to love one another as those in the early church did. Teach us to be the church to those who are in need around us.

ONE: God of our comings and goings,

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Prayer of Invocation: Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell

Call to Worship: RevGalBlogPals

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ALL: Help us to order our work, our play, and our time around you. Help us to find time to spend with our families, our loved ones and our friends. Help us to rest and relax as needed. Help us to spend time in prayer and meditation with you.

ONE: God of our churches,

ALL: Strengthen us to maintain justice. Strengthen us to do what is right in your eyes. Strengthen us to be the voice for those who are not able to speak for themselves. Strengthen us to be your church in this world.

ONE: Let us worship God.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***OPENING HYMN**
573

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

(Tune: LANCASHIRE)

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

ANTHEM *Love Can Build a Bridge*

words and music by Paul Overstreet,
John Jarvis, and Naomi Judd
arranged by Cristi Cary Miller

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 133

Pew Bible OT p. 636

Matthew 15:10-28

Pew Bible NT p. 17

REFLECTION *Jesus Said WHAT?!?!*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE

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** *I Am The Light of the World* # 584
Tune: LIGHT OF THE WORLD)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



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.

JOIN THE DRUM CIRCLE on August 26 with Elizabeth Orleski of Drumzzone in the Rec Room at the Guernsey Memorial Library.

10:30-11:00 a.m. – kids 12 and under

11:15 a.m. -12:15 p.m. – teenagers and above

This will be a fun, musical experience for anyone who wants to participate! This event is sponsored by our church and it's FREE! To sign up call the library at 607-334-4034 or email no.kim@4cls.org.

SUMMER YOUTH GROUP for grades 7-12 Sundays, will continue to meet 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.

THE FIRST CHENANGO PRIDE FESTIVAL IS NEXT

SATURDAY - August 26th from 12 - 6:00 p.m. at Boname Park in Oxford. Our church is a sponsor - 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.

HOSPICE OF CHENANGO BBQ CHICKEN FUNDRAISER -

\$8/Chicken half - Vouchers for sale until 9/1. Pick up your chicken by 12:30 p.m. on Sunday September 10 at the VFW Post 2782, 61 E Main St., Norwich. To order or for more information call 607-334-3556.

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, AUGUST 20

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 21

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22

1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Kitchen

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

9:00am Diaper Give-away at First Baptist Church
10:30am and 11:15am Drumzzone at the Guernsey Library.
See announcements
12:00pm - Chenango Pride Festival, Oxford - See announcements.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

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

August 20, 2023

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd

Liturgist: Miranda Hunter

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Organist: Bob Oehme

Virtual Choir:

Sopranos: Pat Burke, Meena Conant

Altos: Megan Carpenter, Miranda Hunter, Donna Moren,
Mary Williams

Baritones: Dave Burch, Liam Hunter, Craig Lawson,
Michael Moren, Pete Williams

Live Stream: Chris McSweeney

Sunday Sexton: Elspeth Hunter

Nursery: Fiora Breese

Coffee Hour: Pat Burke

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

facebook



CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

Monday - Thursday

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