

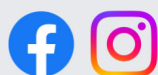


UCCNews

OCTOBER 2023

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

www.uccnorwichny.org



CONTACT US

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Temporarily by appointment only.

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: David Burch
Director of Children/Youth Ministries: Ericka Tyler
Parish Coordinator: Cheri Oakley
Financial Assistant: Jennifer Mallozzi
Sexton: Eric Burgher

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Informational Meeting

Sunday, October 29

**in the Founders Room
following the worship service**

God's Doors are Open to All



From the Pastor

Rev. Jason Boyd

I wish this was something we could dismiss as a joke, and it does have a certain gallows humor quality to it, but it is nonetheless true. In 2019, the polling company Civic Science asked 3,624 American adults whether schools in this country should teach Arabic Numerals as part of their curriculum; 56% responded **NO**.

I suppose it's a good thing that I have long since finished school, and also that I think I largely remember my Roman Numerals from days gone by. ☺

I write to you this morning having just gotten home from getting my 6th Covid shot. I was joking with the pharmacist about other things which I wish we had vaccines against, but of course that isn't exactly how life works. I wish we could develop a vaccine against hate and discrimination.

But hate and discrimination persist. Our nation is currently facing a significant escalation of anti-LGBTQ legislation, including movements intended to essentially eliminate LGBTQ people from public life. It has gotten so severe that this August the Canadian government issued a travel warning for LGBTQ Canadians visiting the US.

Hate and discrimination based on race persist as well. In the statistic I mentioned at the start, we might find ourselves amused that a significant portion of our population does not know that the numbers we use in all aspects of our everyday lives are properly called Arabic Numerals. But let us not kid ourselves that the response of a majority of those asked was based on the word 'Arabic.' That is racist.

You have heard me say at announcement time in church, you have received the information from the church office in the mail, and you will find elsewhere in this newsletter the information about this upcoming anti-racism Adult Christian Education program which Rev. Gary Smith will be facilitating in our church. I am so pleased to have Broad Street United Methodist Church and Christ Lutheran Church as partners in this journey.

As the time for this journey is soon upon us, I also want to invite you to do some holy reading before we begin. I highly urge you to get hold of a copy of a book called "**Caste: The Origin of our Discontents**," by Isabel Wilkerson, or even listen

to it on CD in the car as I did on my recent trip to Newfoundland. Likewise, "**White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism**" by Robin DiAngelo is well worth your time. I can assure you that you will benefit from having read these books.

I very much want to urge you to make the time to participate. We have much to explore, and likely much to unpack. Rev. Smith is going to lead us on a very important journey. I pray you will be intentional about being part of this journey.

Blessings,

Pastor Jason

Pastor Jason will be away from Norwich from after worship on October 1 through October 16. During that time, emergency pastoral care will be available from Rev. Mary Rublee of Broad Street United Methodist Church at 607-371-5077, and Rev. Laura Wade of Christ Lutheran Church (except 10/6-10/9) at 607-227-1901.



Music Ministries

Mary Williams, Director

The Bell Choir is back in action!



Performances are scheduled for next month during worship on Sundays November 5th and 19th. We will also be ringing for the Monday Evening Musical Club on November 6th at 7:00pm.

The group meets upstairs in the former Sunday School classroom, now renamed “The Belfry”. Chris McSweeney has built sturdy bell tables for us so that we will not have to set up and tear down our equipment each week. Thank you Chris!!

Our current ringers are Megan Carpenter, Lilit Danielyan, Hannah DeBates, Maxine Gage, Alyssa Jutting, John Kolb, Michael Moren, Amy Rogers, Destinie (DJ) Smith, Ericka Tyler, Pete Williams. Our substitute ringers are Dave Burch, Janet Johnson, and Bob Oehme.

Seeking Singers for Advent Cantata

Rehearsals for our Advent Cantata, “Peace” by Joel Raney will begin on Sunday, October 29th. Singer registration will be held later this month and participants from area churches and the Norwich community are encouraged to join us. The performance will be held Sunday afternoon December 17th.



Children and Family Ministries

Ericka Tyler

Welcome back to Sunday School! I hope that everyone had a wonderful and relaxing summer.

This month, we are going to dive right into a study of the Old and New Testaments and learn what it means to truly love others. More specifically, how do we respond when someone hurts us? Or perhaps when we hurt someone we love? Apologies are hard to give, but they're sometimes hard to receive, too. When you're the one who has hurt someone else, saying you're sorry (and actually meaning it) takes work and practice. But when you're the one who's been hurt by someone else, things get even more complicated. What if you don't want to forgive them? What if they don't seem sorry? What if they won't even admit they're wrong? What if they've moved on, but you're still not over it? In our four-week series, we'll find out what it means to truly *give* and *receive* forgiveness. We'll discover that when you need forgiveness, **it's not enough to just apologize**. And when you've been hurt and need to forgive, we'll explore the importance of **shifting your perspective**, remembering **God forgave first**, and remembering **Jesus knows what it's like to be hurt**.

In other news, our fall youth group is set to begin on Saturday, September 30, 2023! This group, named **Free 2B Me**, will be a non-structured, safe space for students in 5th through 12th grades to simply come relax, listen to music, play games, socialize with peers, have some snacks, and most importantly, feel free to be who God made them to be! If you know of someone who may be interested, let them know about this great opportunity for fellowship! The group will meet most Saturdays from 4-6 pm in the Youth Room.

I can't wait to see you all! God Bless!



Blessing of the Pets September 24, 2023



New Member Spotlight

On September 17th we welcomed three new members into our fellowship.

Michael and Donna Moren - if you haven't met them yet, look for them in the choir, handbell choir or upfront as a liturgist.

Welcome

Jessica Strough - you can find her on Sunday morning in the sound booth running the graphics.



Jessica Strough



**Sunday October 1, 2023
World Communion Sunday
Neighbors in Need Offering**





OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 World Communion Sunday 9:00am Nursery  10:00am Worship/ Communion <i>Neighbors in Need Offering</i> Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour 11:30am Bell Choir	2 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Room 7:00pm Monday Evening Musical Club concert. See p. 7. 	3 1:00pm Piecemakers Circle, Kitchen 5:00pm Soup Kitchen at St. Bart's Parish Center	4 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 6:00pm Lessons, Nave 7:00pm Choir, Nave	5	6 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom	7 4:00pm Free 2B Me Youth Group. See back cover. 
8 9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour 11:30am Bell Choir	9 Indigenous People's Day Church Office Closed 10:00am Knitting, kitchen 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Room	10 1:00pm Piecemakers Circle, Kitchen 5:00pm Soup Kitchen at St. Bart's Parish Center	11 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 6:00pm Lessons, Nave 7:00pm Choir, Nave	12 1:00pm Piecemakers Meeting, Founders Rm.	13 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom <div> Rummage Sale at Broad St. UMC. See p. 7. </div>	14 4:00pm Free 2B Me Youth Group. See back cover.
15 9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour	16 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Room	17 1:00pm Piecemakers Circle, Kitchen 5:00pm Soup Kitchen at St. Bart's Parish Center 7:00pm Let's Talk Race, Founders Rm.	18 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 4:00pm Laundry Love at Byrne Dairy 6:00pm Lessons, Nave 6:10pm Democratic Committee, Founders Rm. 7:00pm Choir, Nave	19 5:00pm Free Meal at Emmanuel Episcopal Ch. 6:00pm Helping Hands Give-away at the YMCA 7:00pm Trustees Meeting, Zoom 	20 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom	21 4:00pm Free 2B Me Youth Group. See back cover.
22 9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour 	23 10:00am Knitting, kitchen 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Room 6:30pm Garden Club, Founders Rm/Kitchen	24 1:00pm Piecemakers Circle, Kitchen 5:00pm Soup Kitchen at St. Bart's Parish Center 7:00pm Let's Talk Race, Founders Rm.	25 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 6:00pm Lessons, Nave 7:00pm Choir, Nave	26	27 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom	28 9:00am Diaper Give-away at First Baptist Church 4:00pm Free 2B Me Youth Group. See back cover.
29 9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship Sunday School 11:00am Budget Meeting Fellowship Hour 11:30am Bell Choir 3:00pm Cantata Rehearsal	30 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Room 7:00pm Executive Council, Founders Rm.	31 Halloween 1:00pm Piecemakers Circle, Kitchen 5:00pm Soup Kitchen at St. Bart's Parish Center				

The Norwich Muslim Community meets daily at 9:30pm and on Friday afternoons for prayer.



Let's Talk Race

Broad Street United Methodist Church, Christ Lutheran Church, and the United Church of Christ First Congregational of Norwich invite you to join us for ***Let's Talk Race***, an amazing seven-week journey where we create brave space and speak truthfully about racism in our nation.

During our time together we will explore the history of racism including its relationship with American Christianity; the connection between bias, stereotypes, and microaggressions (and how to respond when they occur!); the challenges of white privilege and white privilege resistance; and the effects of redlining and the "zero sum paradigm". We end by teaching the skills necessary to live as an antiracist person of faith. Each session will last two hours and include videos, discussion, and reflection.

Let's Talk Race will take place this Autumn on seven "almost consecutive" Tuesdays from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Founders Room at the United Church of Christ, located at 11 West Main Street in downtown Norwich. The dates are as follows:

October 17 & 24
November 7, 14, & 28
December 5 & 12

Presenting and facilitating the program is Rev. Gary Smith, Founding Director of the Center for Racial Justice and Racial Justice Consultant for the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ. He has 20 years of experience in faith-based community organizing and antiracism education. In addition to his antiracism work, Rev. Smith serves as Pastor of Malden Road United Church of Christ in Syracuse.

Livestream Team

Jen Mallozzi and Chris McSweeney

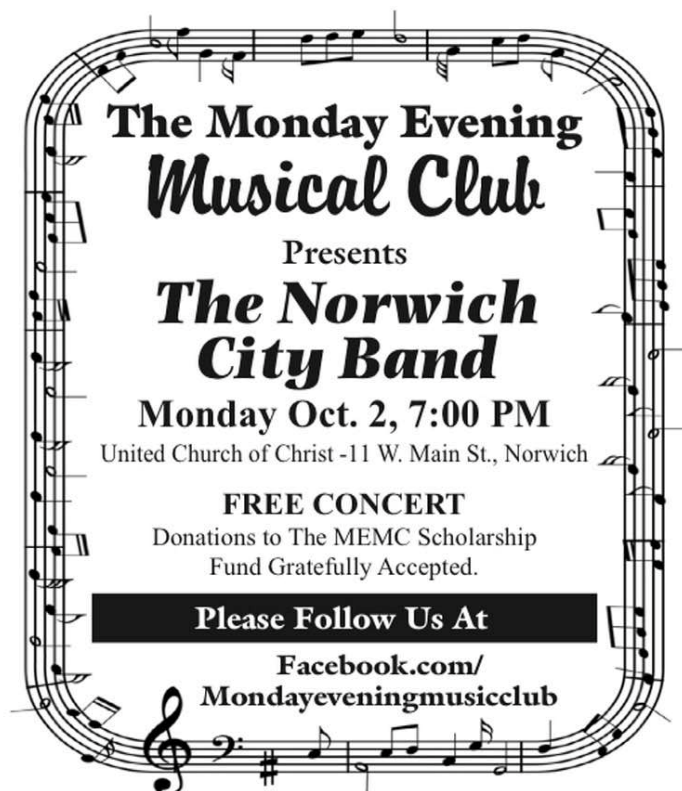
The livestream crew have had a rough couple of weeks. Yet, we have stepped up to the challenge. We are now fully staffed with the new hire and new member, Jessica Strough who has been a vital addition to the livestream team. She is running the graphics, Liam Hunter is running cameras and Chris McSweeney is running sound. Chris has stepped up to run the livestream team until Jen Mallozzi's return. We are constantly trying to improve and try new things. We welcome any and all feedback and comments.

We have recently purchased some new microphones and other equipment and will be adding them in and using them in upcoming services.

We are in the process of updating the worn out carpet in the Nave. The main reason for this is because the carpet causes issues with the color balance of the cameras. Which is why when someone wears red and you can see the carpet they blend in together. I appreciate all who have voted. Turned out it's a very close choice between colors, yet by one vote Rich Titanium was the decided vote. When the time comes, we will keep everyone informed in the process.

After Communion Sunday service, anyone is more than welcome to pull either Chris or Jen aside and talk to us or even ask to take a look at the livestream booth in the choir loft to see where all the magic happens. And again, if you have any feedback don't be afraid to either use the chat feature on Youtube during the service, pull one of us aside or email Cheri Oakley, Parish Coordinator at office@uccnorwichny.org. We want to make sure all feedback is heard and taken into much consideration.





**The Monday Evening
Musical Club**
Presents
**The Norwich
City Band**
Monday Oct. 2, 7:00 PM
United Church of Christ - 11 W. Main St., Norwich

FREE CONCERT
Donations to The MEMC Scholarship
Fund Gratefully Accepted.

Please Follow Us At
**Facebook.com/
Mondayeveningmusicclub**



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

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO

Carol Nassar for the loss of her father, **Albert Nassar** on September 3, 2023.



**RUMMAGE
& BAKE**
SALE

Friday October 13
9:00 - 7:00

Saturday October 14
9:00 - 2:00 p.m.
(\$1 Bag Sale)

Broad St. United Methodist Church

OCTOBER

Birthdays

- 3 Leona Tyler
- 6 Pat Evans, William Kolb
- 8 Shea Breese
- 9 Josiah Tyler
- 10 Kyle Conant
- 11 Carol Nassar
- 16 Tim Burgher
Justin Posner
- 20 Debra Phelps, Mya Yantz
- 21 Jennifer Mallozzi
- 26 David Hall
- 30 Jill Mallozzi

Anniversaries

Terri & Jason Yantz 10/09/2004
Cheri & Kevin Oakley 10/12/2019

Free 2B Me

A Safe Space for All Youth
Grades 5 -12



Come relax with music, games, snacks and conversation in a safe environment where you can be free to be whoever God made you to be!

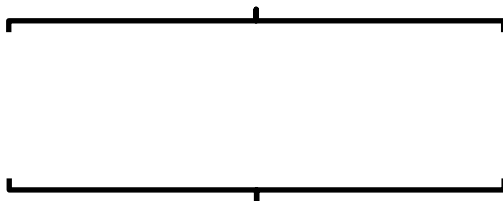


Saturdays, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

United Church of Christ,
11 West Main St, Norwich.



Questions? Contact Ericka Tyler at etyler@uccnorwichny.org or 607-373-0538



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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