



UCC News

SEPTEMBER 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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Make sure to join us in worship on September 17!

Our community will grow just a little bigger soon, as **Jessica Schoonover** and **Michael and Donna Moren** become members of the church. We hope you will be here to officially welcome them.

God's Doors are Open to All



From the Pastor

Rev. Jason Boyd

In “church world,” it can almost feel like September marks the start of a new year. Yes, yes, it’s not January 1 nor is it Advent, but it still has that feel. Summer has come and is in process of going. We see students and teachers back in school, and we hope to see some beautiful Autumn colors emerging on our trees in the not-too-distant future.

Even though it’s not really a new year, I hope we can find some of that energy that surrounds the start of a new year, or the start of anything that is new to us. I am reminded of words from Isaiah 43:19: “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

God is about to do a new thing. God is always both about to do a new thing and in process of doing new things. For us, September 17 will bring us a tangible and delightful newness as we have new members joining the church in worship that Sunday. The following Sunday – while this is not quite new since we did it last year – we will again have Pet Blessing Sunday; more information can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. And I wonder, as we move into this figurative next year, what new things might God be working within you? To what new things to you hear God calling you?

Before I forget, be aware that I will be away on October 8 and 15; more information about emergency pastoral care while I’m away will come later. October 1 is World Communion Sunday, and while this is not the October newsletter, I hope you will mark this date where we intentionally share the blessed meal with all God’s children all across God’s creation.

In closing, I invite you to pray the prayer below I’ve adapted from an Advent entry in the Catholic blog *Change and Newness in Christ*:

Dear God, I know You call me to embrace the newness of life and the changes that I must endure so as to follow You more faithfully. Help me to be open to all that You call me to so that I will continually become a new creation in Your grace. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen.

Blessings,



Pastor Jason

Susquehanna Association Fall Meeting

Saturday September 30

9:30 am – 12:00 pm

IN PERSON

Homer Congregational UCC

9:30am Registration

10:30am Business Meeting

11:30am Closing Worship

We will be voting on the proposed 2024 budget

RSVP to 607-722-1017



Counseling Assistance from the Susquehanna Association

For personal or family counseling

The Susquehanna Association of churches in the UCC NY Conference wants to support you and your family. Mental health is as important as spiritual well-being. We no longer have a Family Counseling Ministry, but do offer a Counseling Assistance program to reimburse half, up to \$50 of up to six counseling sessions each year with a licensed NYS therapist. **All you have to do is apply!** Your request will be anonymous, only seen by Counseling Assistance Board Members, adhering to strict confidentiality. Members of UCC Churches in the Susquehanna Association, and persons referred by members and clergy, are eligible to receive the reimbursement.

Applications are available at the UCC Norwich Church Office.

Livestream Upgrade Goes Live



Pictured (L to R) Chris McSweeney, AV Tech, Justin, installation/consultant, Jennifer Mallozzi Livestream Director and Justin Ocello, owner/consultant from Ocello Systems.

On Sunday July 23 our service was livestreamed from the new sound booth in the organ loft for the first time using our new cameras, computer equipment and software. Ocello Systems was on hand to help ensure everything ran smoothly.

thank
you

Dear Friends,

Thank you so very much for the acknowledgement of my Twentieth Anniversary of service to the church and for the lovely rose garden and gift card. It has been my joy to make music with you! I thank you all for your commitment to the music ministries of our church.

Sincerely,

Mary Williams

Director of Music Ministries

Guest Speaker



Daniel Auwarter, Commissioner, Chenango County Department of Social Services spoke about homelessness in our communities during the worship service on July 23. He answered questions from the congregation after the service during coffee hour. Thank you Mr. Auwarter for sharing your knowledge with us.



Sunday School Starts
September 17

upstairs after the Children's Moment
for children in K-8

Music Ministries

Mary Williams, Director

Calling all SINGERS! Choir will resume Wednesday evening rehearsals on September 6 at 7:00pm in the Nave. The role of the choir is to support congregational singing and to provide anthems that echo our scripture readings and reinforce our worship themes. Participating in choir also helps to build connections with each other, deepen our understanding of God's love for us, and helps us grow in our faith and discipleship. Oh... and did I mention? We love to have fun! If you would like more information on singing with the choir, please contact the church office. We'd love to have YOU join us!



*L to R: Elizabeth Orleski, presenter;
Meena Conant, Music Committee Chair*

Drumzzone

Our church sponsored a Drumming Workshop with presenter Elizabeth Orleski on Saturday August 26.



*Elizabeth Orleski
Drumming Workshop presenter*

Approximately 25 youths and adults participated in the event which was hosted by Guernsey Memorial Library. We learned several African drumming rhythms and sang celebratory songs in African languages. This is the second time that Elizabeth has led us in a drumming circle. She will be returning to Norwich for the

Colorscape Festival September 9 -10 at the Art Zone Stage at 11:00am and 12:30pm. She will be gathering names of interested individuals who would like to be part of a drumming workshop in the coming year in our area. You may contact the church office if you (or someone you know) would like to participate in an experience like this.



*Workshop participants Destinie
Smith and Xandry Langdon*



Workshop Participants: The Knapp Family



*Workshop Participants (L to R):
Grace Burke and Pat Burke*

Music Ministries continued

Welcome to our New Organist, David Burch, whose first Sunday with us is September 3rd.



A Note from David ...

Greetings UCC Family! I am honored and very excited to join the UCC Congregation in my role of Organist beginning in September. The past four years I have been the Music Director and Organist for St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Sidney, New York. While I enjoyed my time there very much, the opportunity at UCC arose and I felt truly compelled to join this wonderful congregation. I grew up in Norwich and spent quite a bit of time at UCC in my youth, whether it be during my tenure in Scouting, Vacation Bible School, and various piano recitals. The opportunity to once again spend time in this beautiful building and perform music is truly welcomed and appreciated. I look forward to meeting all of you and providing a wonderful and peaceful atmosphere for you all to worship. See you soon!

Best,
David Burch



Knitting Group
Every Other
Monday
starting 9/11
10-11:30am
in the kitchen

Anyone who enjoys needlework of any kind is welcome to come and bring a project. The group also makes shawls, scarves and socks for people who may need some prayer and encouragement. For more information, talk to Jane Prime or contact the church office at 607-334-3434.

Thoughts on Coffee Hour Fellowship

by Pat Burke

I was brought up by my grandmother. We lived in a big house on a hill surrounded by a few acres of working property which was situated in about the middle of the main road that goes from Kingston to Montego Bay in Jamaica, West Indies.

A few travelers on that road would stop and walk up the hill to our house and ask for a drink of water or to use our toilet which was outside of our house. My grandmother greeted each of these travelers with outstretched hands and a smile on her face. To those who asked for water, she would bring out lemonade to share. In some instances, she would offer a few baked goods.

Grandma baked on a Friday and would always put away the best of the lot for the travelers. One day I asked Grandma, "why do you always give away the best cakes to people you don't know and may never see again?" She said, "Just in case one of those persons may be an angel in disguise."

My grandmother's example was imprinted in my heart and mind whenever I had the opportunity to serve others. This is why it was so important for me to provide the best I could for coffee hour.

Which brings me to ask, "what is the purpose of coffee hour?" This is what I came up with: First, this is a time when we gather together to interact with each other to find out how we are *really* doing. Next we can ask, "what can I do to help?" I have experienced that the best thing for me to do is to listen with my heart, and to be alert so I can empathize and react. The more I think about it, the more I realize that *we need to get to know our brothers and sisters on a deeper level*. I am fortunate to be part of the prayer group where we have grown in understanding of our needs, resonating with the needs of others, considering other cultures, and expressing ourselves with honesty. I see the potential for our fellowship time to allow relationships to grow in this way.

What ideas do you have for making our coffee hour a *true* fellowship hour? Feel free to talk with me about this. Or send your thoughts by email to the church office.



September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
The Norwich Muslim Community meets upstairs daily at 9:30pm and Friday afternoons for prayer.					1 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom	2
3 9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship/ Communion 11:00am Coffee Hour	4 Labor Day 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom	5 1:00pm Piecemakers Circle, kitchen 5:00pm Soup Kitchen, St. Bart's Parish Center. See p. 8.	6 10:00am Prayer Circle Zoom 6:00pm D. Burch, Nave 7:00pm Choir, Nave 	7	8 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom	9 8:00am Colorscape food volunteers, kitchen 9:00am Rabies Clinic in Greene. See p. 8. 
10 9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Hour 	11 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 10:00am Knitting, kitchen. 3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders' Rm. 7:00pm Deacons Meeting, Zoom 	12 1:00pm Piecemakers Circle, kitchen 5:00pm Soup Kitchen, St. Bart's Parish Center. See p. 8.	13 10:00am Prayer Circle Zoom 6:00pm D. Burch, Nave 7:00pm Choir, Nave	14 1:00pm Piecemakers Mtg., Founders Rm. 	15 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom	16 
17  9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship Sunday School during the service 11:00am Coffee Hour 	18 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders' Rm. 5:30pm Home Bureau Potluck, Founders Rm. 6:00pm Monday Evening Musical Club Mtg., Nave	19 1:00pm Piecemakers Circle, kitchen 5:00pm Soup Kitchen, St. Bart's Parish Center. See p. 8.	20 10:00am Prayer Circle Zoom 4:00pm Laundry Love. See p. 8. 6:00pm D. Burch, Nave 6:10pm Democratic Committee, Founders Rm. 7:00pm Choir, Nave	21 5:00pm Free Meal at Emmanuel Episcopal Church. See p. 8. 6:00pm Helping Hands Giveaway night. See p. 8. 	22 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom	23 9:00am Diaper Give-away, First Baptist Church. See p. 8.
24  9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship/ Blessing of the Pets (See back cover.) Sunday School during the service 11:00am Coffee Hour	25 DEADLINE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 10:00am Knitting, kitchen. 3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders' Rm. 6:30pm Garden Club, Founders Rm. 7:00pm Norwich City Band Rehearsal, Nave	26 1:00pm Piecemakers Circle, kitchen 5:00pm Soup Kitchen, St. Bart's Parish Center. See p. 8.	27 10:00am Prayer Circle Zoom 6:00pm D. Burch, Nave 7:00pm Choir, Nave 	28 7:00pm Trustees Mtg., Zoom	29 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom	30 9:30 a.m. Susquehanna Association Fall Meeting. See p. 2. 

We've Got Mail



Dear Cheri and everyone else involved,

Thank you very much for your help with getting the wheelchair lift for my home. I was able to get out of my house and to my surgery and doctor appointments. This happened because of your very helpful generosity. Again, thank you very much. God bless you all.
John G.

Dear UCC,

On behalf of the volunteers and clients that are part of our Daily Bread Food Pantry, we want to thank you for your latest donation. We certainly appreciate your continued support for the pantry.

We are now giving our families a 5 day/15 meal package and we have increased the amount of milk that we give each household on the milk voucher. Your donation helps with the increase in food that we need to be able to do this. Our clients are now coming inside the pantry to complete the required paperwork, but we have continued to pre-pack the food. The clients are grateful for the food and milk we are able to give them.

We couldn't provide food for the numbers of people that we're feeding without generous donations like yours. With the increase in food and gas prices, we have seen an increase in the number of families coming to the pantry for the last few months. We are happy we can be there to assist these families.

Barbara and Gary Tompkins
Food Pantry Co-Coordinator
Our Daily Bread Food Pantry

Dear UCC

Thank you so much for supporting the important investments made over the last five years at UHS Chenango Memorial Hospital. Your generous commitment made all the difference as we started on this path to transform healthcare in Chenango County. We are so incredibly grateful for the support of the UCC congregation. Thank you for all you do for our hospital and community.

Melissa Stagnaro, Campaign Director
Chenango Medical Neighborhood Capital
Campaign

Dear UCC Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for granting me a scholarship. I greatly appreciate it and will use it to further my education in the Visual Arts at SUNY Oswego.

Shea A. Breese

Dear UCC Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for awarding me the scholarship. It will help pay for my attendance at Binghamton University.
Aidan Rogers

Dear UCC Friends and Family,

I can't even begin to express how grateful I am for everything this church has done for me. Receiving these scholarships really will make a difference for me and my family and I will work hard to live up to the opportunities it provides me in college.

Thank you.
Elspeth Hunter

In thanks for the Community Honors Banquet and Scholar of the Month Awards:

Dear UCC,

Thank you for supporting Norwich Students and providing us financial support for the future. None of us will forget what our Norwich community has done for us. Best of luck to the church and future students who it continues to support.

Drew Brooks

Thank you for putting on such a nice event for us and providing us with some money to help along the way. Like Drew said, it feels so great to be supported by our community and we hope this continues to support Norwich seniors.

Emma Brooks

Neighbors in Need Offering Received October 1, 2023

Artist: Alexis
Age: 15
Congregation: Trinity United Church of Christ, St. Louis MO



Behold!

*"God saw everything God made
and behold, it was very good."*

Genesis 1:31

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Volunteers are needed for Chenango County Habitat For Humanity annual lawn sale.

Thursday, Sept 14 — Saturday, Sept 16

16 N Canal Street, (next to Morabito Gas Station), Oxford. To volunteer call Audrey Johnson 607-843-6249 or e-mail

<seatweaving_comics@yahoo.com>

Thank you Audrey Johnson

CHENANGO COUNTY RABIES CLINICS

Saturday, 9/9 – Greene Ball Flats –

9:00-10:30am

Saturday, 9/23 – Norwich Fairgrounds

9:00-10:30am

Saturday, 10/14 – Sherburne Bus Garage

9:00-10:30am

Wednesday, 11/8 – N. Norwich Town Garage

5:00-6:30pm

Saturday, 12/9 – So New Berlin Fire Station

9:00-10:30am

To Register Visit: <https://apps3.health.ny.gov/doh2/applinks/cdms//dateshttp://health.ny.gov/go2clinic>

Pets must be pre-registered for the clinic. If you have difficulty registering for the clinic, please call the Chenango County Environmental Health offices at (607) 337-1673 for assistance. A \$5 donation per animal is suggested.

LAUNDRY LOVE

Every Third Wednesday of the month from 4:00pm-6:00pm at Byrne Dairy in Norwich. The last wash is at 5:30pm. You can help us by donating, every penny donated is used right here in Norwich. Donations are our only source of funding. For more information about Laundry Love, visit www.laundrylove.org. To volunteer or if you have any questions you can email: cclaundrylove@gmail.com

EMMANUEL SOUL KITCHEN

The Emmanuel Soul Kitchen begins in September, the third Thursday of the month (coinciding with Helping Hands) at 5:00 p.m. at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 37 W Main St. One seating, free of charge.

OUR DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry is located at Emmanuel Episcopal Church 37 West Main Street, Norwich NY 13815 **Open: Mon, Wed, Friday 10a.m. — 12p.m.** Volunteers help unload delivery trucks, set up the pantry, oversee distribution, and more. Please call Emmanuel Episcopal Church at (607) 334-8801 for more information.

COMMUNITY SOUP KITCHEN

The Norwich Catholic Community Soup Kitchen has a sit-down dinner every Tuesday from 5:00-6:00pm at the Parish Center, 81 East Main Street. Doors open at 4:00pm. The dinner is open to all, is free of charge, and it runs from September through May. There is plenty of room for seating. If Norwich schools are closed, then the soup kitchen is closed too. People can call the parish office at 607-337-2215 with any questions. Please let anyone you know who may be interested in joining us for this meal.

FOURTH SATURDAY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION

The Baptist Church, 10 West Park Place, Norwich hands out free diapers and wipes the Fourth Saturday of the month from 9:00am – 11:00am. Our amazing community and fellow churches have made countless donations over the years. We need small packages of diapers size newborn to size 5, as well as pull-ups in all sizes and wipes. If you would like to donate, either items or monetarily, please reach out to First Baptist Church at 607-336-2509.

HELPING HANDS

The Helping Hands Give-away night is the third Thursday of the month at 6:00pm at the YMCA. Anyone can come and take what they need. Our Deacons continue to provide bags of personal care items each month. You can donate by making a check out to UCC Norwich and putting Helping Hands in the memo.

Volunteers Needed

Emmanuel Episcopal Church will be hosting a free Thanksgiving Dinner on November 23.

Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- Help cooking and deboning turkeys from **November 18 to November 22**—various days and times at Emmanuel.
- Providing *store bought* Apple and Pumpkin Pies. We will need 100 pies. Pies should be delivered to the church on **November 22**.
- On **November 22** help will be needed to set up table, chairs and table service (1 to 2 hours)

November 23—Thanksgiving Day

7:30 a.m. Cut and package pies (2 hours)

9:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Assemble dinners for home delivery and take out distribution.

11:45 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Serve dinners in Church Parish Hall

12:30-2:00 Clean up

Please contact the Emmanuel Episcopal Church at 607-334-8801 or you can email

emmanuelchurch20@gmail.com. Please provide your name, phone number and number of volunteers by **November 10, 2023**.

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.
- ♦ the people of Ukraine and Russia

OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

for **Bonnie Carpenter** for the loss of her husband, **Henry Carpenter**, who died on June 10, 2023 and for healing as she is recovering from a hospital stay.

Contact information for Bonnie is available from the church office.



SEPTEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 4 Kayla Farrell
- 5 Chad Conant
- 7 Burt Bridge
Maxine Gage
- 8 Janet Johnson
Bob Oehme
- 9 Jay Conant
Jessica Schoonover
- 10 Wadeanthony Burke
John Kolb
- 11 Samantha Gage
- 14 Sam Miller
- 22 Pat Burke
- 23 Arlene Wade
- 25 Gary Sprout

Anniversaries

Brooke Bonney and Chris Koo 9/3/2020
Todd Bachman and Elizabeth Bronson 9/15/84
John Kolb and Lilit Danielyan 9/23/08
Chris and Jennifer Mallozzi 9/29/12



Saturday September 9
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday September 10
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Downtown Norwich

Please be reminded that Colorscape uses our parking lot for handicapped parking during the festival, except for Sunday morning.

Blessings of the Pets: Sunday, September 24

Woof! Meow! It's back!

As we did last year, we look forward to blessing our beloved animal friends in the tradition of St. Francis of Assisi again this year. On Sunday, September 24, we will give thanks to God for the pets who share their lives with us, and those who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge, and also for stuffed animals if you so wish!

For worship, you are invited to bring with you a picture of a beloved animal (living or departed) for blessing during the service, as well as a stuffed animal if you so choose. If you are worshipping on YouTube that day, you are invited to do the same, and there will also be an opportunity for a virtual blessing of live pets at that time (Scarlett will be the stand-in in the Nave).

After worship, weather permitting, you are invited to bring your beloved pets to the park across West Main Street from the church for an in-person blessing.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

11 West Main Street
Norwich, NY 13815-1612

