



HE LEADS ME
BESIDE STILL

WATERS.

HE
RESTORES
MY SOUL.

PSALM 23:2-3

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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

October 15, 2023

10:00 a.m

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Be Still My Soul*

by Jean Sibelius

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: In the darkest valley,

ALL: At the banquet table;

ONE: In the hard work of life,

ALL: At the moments of ease;

ONE: In our day-to-day reality,

ALL: At times set aside—

ONE: Like this time, now—

ALL: For worship, for listening, for paying attention;

ONE: With every step we take:

**ALL: Goodness and mercy follow us; our cups
overflow.**

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Call to Worship by Joanna Harader

Prayer of Invocation by Mary Petrina Boyd

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PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***OPENING HYMN** *Bring Many Names* #11
(Tune: WESTCHASE)

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

CHOIR ANTHEM

God's Peace

Marva J. Dawn
Quoting BEACH SPRING,
attributed to B. F. White
Choral Setting by C.J. Adams

(Children in K-8 are invited to go upstairs to Sunday School at this time.)

PASTORAL BLESSING OF PEACE

ONE: May the Peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Let us lift our voices in song.

SUNG RESPONSE

Peace

by Judy A. Rose

Peace be the song that we will sing.

Peace be the joy, our spirits ring.

Peace be the love that sets us free,

peace for all, peace for you and me.

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 23

Pew Bible NT p. 553

Matthew 22:1-14

Pew Bible NT p. 24

REFLECTION *Bring Many Stewards*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE *The Spirit of God*

by Tyler Tait

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**

As We Gather At Your Table
(Tune: BEACH SPRING)

#332

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Glory Be to the Father* by Jason W. Krug

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 from Norwich 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 at 607-227-1901.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on Thursday and Friday this week, because Cheri will be away.

THE ANNUAL INFORMATIONAL BUDGET MEETING will be held on Sunday, October 29th after the worship service.

SEEKING SINGERS FOR ADVENT CANTATA - Rehearsals for our Advent Cantata, *Peace* by Joel Raney will begin on Sunday October 29th. You can register by going to our website and clicking the link on the homepage. Participants from area churches and the Norwich community are encouraged to join us. The performance will be held Sunday afternoon December 17th.

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. "Let's Talk Race" will take place 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.

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, OCTOBER 15

9:00am Nursery, upstairs
10:00am Worship, Nave
Sunday School for K-8 - after the Children's Moment
11:00am Fellowship Hour, Founders Room
11:30am Handbell Choir Rehearsal, upstairs

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen
5:00pm Soup Kitchen, St. Bart's Parish Center
6:30pm *Let's Talk Race*, Founders Room. See announcements.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
4:00pm Laundry Love at Byrne Dairy
6:00pm D. Burch, Nave
6:10pm Democratic Committee, Founders Rm.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

Church Office Closed

5:00pm Free meal at Emmanuel Episcopal Church
6:00pm Helping Hands Give-away
7:00pm Trustees Meeting Zoom

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

Church Office Closed

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

4:00pm Free 2B Me Youth Group for grades 5-12, upstairs

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

9:00am Nursery, upstairs
10:00am Worship, Nave
Sunday School for K-8 - after the Children's Moment
11:00am Fellowship Hour, Founders Room

October 15, 2023

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd

Liturgist: Michael Moren, Ed Tucker

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Organist: David Burch

Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Ericka Tyler

Live Stream: Chris McSweeney, Jessica Strough, Liam Hunter

Sunday Sexton: Mya Yantz

Nursery: Fiora Breese

Fellowship Hour: Pat Burke

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 10/22

Usher:

Liturgist: Elinor Beebe

Flowers:

Fellowship 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 HOURS

Temporarily by appointment only.

