



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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

November 12, 2023

10:00 a.m

**Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Stewardship Sunday**

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Meditation on "Surrender"* by Bonnie Barrett

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Bring praise to our Creator who kissed life into our mortal bodies.

ALL: **We bring praise to our Creator who trusts us to preserve God's most precious things.**

ONE: Bring praise to our Creator who invites us into sacred partnership to tend to each other and all of creation.

ALL: **We bring praise to our Creator seeing the beauty around us and sensing our sacred responsibility to change lives through our shared work in this church.**

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Call to Worship and Prayer of Invocation by Rev. Stacy Emerson
Stewardship Litany by Edith Little

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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 78:1-7

Pew Bible NT p. 594

Matthew 25: 1-13

Pew Bible NT p. 28

REFLECTION *Don't Miss The Party*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE *Offertory on "Trentham"* by Lani Smith

A LITANY FOR USING OUR GIFTS: STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

ONE: Spirit of God, your love is all about us.

ALL: Wherever we turn, we are overwhelmed by your bounty.

ONE: How can we thank you enough for all your gifts to us?

ALL: Your gracious goodness toward us never ends.

ONE: We have not earned it.

ALL: We cannot repay it.

ONE: It flows over us and around us.

ALL: It never leaves us, though sometimes we fail to recognize its presence.

ONE: We live surrounded by your love.

ALL: Just as a fish lives in the sea.

ONE: We lose awareness that you give us life.

ALL: We so easily take your love as our right.

ONE: We forget that relationship with you that keeps our Christian life throbbing.

ALL: As if, unlike fish, we had forgotten how to swim!

ONE: Loving God, teach us your ways again.

ALL: Draw us back into rhythm with your will.

ONE: We regret our wandering attention to you.

ALL: We know we are living in disharmony with you and with your desires for our world.

ONE: Forgive us and restore us again, we pray.

ALL: Renew us, restore and reconcile us, we ask....
ONE: You call forth from us a total response of every part of our life.
ALL: You draw out from us our latent talents, our every gift.
ONE: You help us offer our contributions in confidence, in company with other people.
ALL: We are excited to discover how our various abilities complement and complete a whole unity. Together we catch a vision of the harmony of every part of creation, knit together according to your will. Use us, O God. Help us to say "yes" to You. Because of You, our church can change lives. What would you have us do? We pray in the name of Jesus.

PLEDGE DEDICATION HYMN *How Can I Say Thanks* #14
(Tune: MY TRIBUTE)

You are invited to bring your pledge cards forward during the hymn.

SHARING OF JOYS/CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Pastor)
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** *Take My Gifts* #562
(Tune: TALAVERA TERRACE)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *O Worship the King* by Tom Birchwood

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NURSERY IS AVAILABLE for children up to age 5, upstairs at the front of the church.

THANKSGIVING PROJECT - We need your help. We recently found out that a community group will be donating food boxes for us to distribute to additional families in the community. We need volunteers to give out our gift cards and the boxes on the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving. To volunteer, please fill out the insert in the bulletin and leave it in the offering plate or the church office. Donations are also welcome to help cover the cost. Cash or checks made out to "UCC Norwich" with *Thanksgiving* in the memo can be put in the offering plate or dropped in the secure mail slot on the front door.

SAVE THE DATE - November 25 at 10:00 a.m. the Deacons invite you to come and help to decorate the church for the Advent Season. Sign up in the church office or talk to Rose Laughlin.

ADVENT STUDY - We are gathering together with our kindred in Christ from Broad Street United Methodist Church and Christ Lutheran Church for a shared study of the names of Christ used by the Gospel writers. Our book will be *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*, by biblical scholar Adam Hamilton as he examines the names of Christ used by the gospel writers. Our gatherings will be on four consecutive Wednesdays (11/29, 12/6, 12/13, 12/20) at Broad Street United Methodist Church, 74 North Broad Street. Fellowship time with a soup lunch will be at 11:30am, with study to follow from 12-1pm. To get a book, contact Cheri in the church office.

CALENDAR

The Chenango Muslim Community meets upstairs daily at 9:30pm & Fridays at 1:30pm

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

9:00am Nursery, upstairs

10:00am Worship, Nave - Stewardship Sunday

Sunday School for K-8 - after the Children's Moment

11:00am Fellowship Hour, Founders Room

11:30am Handbell Choir, upstairs

3:00pm Christmas Cantata Rehearsal, Nave

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Room
6:30pm Garden Club, Founders Room
7:00pm Deacons Meeting on Zoom

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
4:00pm Laundry Love at Byrne Dairy
6:00pm D. Burch, Nave
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Nave

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

5:00pm Free meal at Emmanuel Episcopal Church. One seating
6:00pm Helping Hands Give-away at the YMCA
7:00pm Trustees Meeting, Zoom

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

9:00am Norwich Theater Company Board Retreat, Mayflower Room
4:00pm Free 2B Me Youth Group for grades 5-12, upstairs

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

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, upstairs
3:00pm Christmas Cantata Rehearsal, Nave

November 12, 2023

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd

Liturgist: 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 - 11/19

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.

