



*Wonderful
are your works
that I know very well*

Psalm 139:14 NRSV

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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

January 14, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday in the UCC

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Bulletin Notes:

Call to Worship: adapted from the words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by Sharon R. Fennema

Prayer of Invocation: by Rev. Charles Graves

Anthem: selected in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the reference in his final speech (“I Have Been to the Mountaintop”) delivered in support of the striking sanitation workers at Mason Temple in Memphis, TN on April 3, 1968 — the day before he was assassinated. In the book of Exodus, Moses is called several times to climb the mountain to receive the word of God. The mountain is a high and holy place. Today's anthem reminds us that God is with us during difficult times and that we are encouraged to continue climbing higher and higher to become closer to God.

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GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Listen, people of God, for the voice of God is calling:
“The ultimate measure of a person is not where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where they stand at times of challenge and controversy.”

ALL: In difficult times, God calls us to join the movement of courageous truth-tellers.

ONE: In comfortable times, God calls us to join the movement of silence-breakers.

ALL: In times of struggle, God calls us to join the movement toward freedom.

ONE: In times of peace, God calls us to join the movement toward justice.

ALL: In all times, God calls us to join with the movement of the Spirit.

ONE: Listen, people of God, for the voice of God is calling:
“Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in.”

ALL: Let us worship God, listening for the voice that calls us to join the movement of love.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***OPENING HYMN** *Lift Every Voice and Sing* #593
(Tune: LIFT EVERY VOICE)

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Children are welcome to stay in the front pew until after the Anthem.

ANTHEM

Climbin' Up the Mountain

African American Spiritual
Arranged by Mark Patterson

Children in grades 3 to 8 are invited upstairs for Sunday School at this time.

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 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 live in you in all you do.

Peace, peace, peace, peace.

Peace live in you in all you do.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

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. Give online at www.uccnorwichny.org/give.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
John 1:43-51

Pew Bible OT p. 639
Pew Bible NT p. 95

REFLECTION *Building the Beloved Community*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

United Church of Christ Statement of 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, NEW ZEALAND PRAYER BOOK VERSION

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source
of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us
all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the
world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our
hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and
forever.

Amen.

LITURGY OF FAREWELL TO PASTOR JASON

RECOGNITION OF PARTING Miranda Hunter, PPRC

ONE: On May 22, 2022, the United Church of Christ, First Congregational called the Rev. Jason Boyd to serve as Pastor and Teacher.

PASTOR JASON: *I thank the United Church of Christ, First Congregational, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me during my time here. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.*

ALL: **We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.**

PASTOR JASON: *I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.*

VOWS OF RELEASE Rev. Ryan Henderson

ONE: Do you, the members of the United Church of Christ, First Congregational, release Pastor Jason from the duties of Pastor and Teacher?

ALL: **We do, with the help of God.**

ONE: Do you offer Pastor Jason your encouragement for his ministry soon to begin in Canada?

ALL: **We do, with the help of God.**

ONE: Do you, Jason, release the United Church of Christ, First Congregational from turning to you and depending on you?

PASTOR JASON: *I do, with the help of God.*

ONE: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and on the relationship with another who will come to serve?

PASTOR JASON: *I do, with the help of God.*

**WITNESS ON BEHALF OF THE SUSQUEHANNA
ASSOCIATION**

Rev. Dr. Chris Xenakis

(Church officers are invited to rise in body or in spirit.)

ONE: On behalf of the Susquehanna Association of the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ, I bear witness to the words spoken: words of thankfulness, forgiveness, and release. The member churches of our Association and Conference hold each of you in prayer. We pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service.

CHURCH OFFICERS: Thanks be to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand
(Tune: PRECIOUS LORD)

#472

BENEDICTION

Rev. Ryan Henderson

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL for children in grades 3 - 8 takes place upstairs after the choir anthem.

FREE 2B ME YOUTH GROUP Saturdays, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. For youth in grades 5 -12.

CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING - Sunday January 28 after the worship service. All members are encouraged to attend.

PLEASE CONSIDER SIGNING UP TO BE THE LITURGIST. No one is signed up after today, and especially in the coming weeks this will be an important role. Everything you have to say is provided in large print and you will have the opportunity to read over it several days ahead of time. This could be an opportunity to grow outside your comfort zone in front of an understanding and forgiving audience. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the church office.

GIVE BACK NIGHT FUNDRAISER FOR BSUMC STEEPLE PROJECT at Nina's, Tuesday January 16, 4:00 p.m. to close. Coupon available on Facebook to present at checkout.

GIVE BACK NIGHT FUNDRAISER FOR THE PLACE Chenango Youth Philanthropy Council - at Gilligan's in Sherburne, Wednesday, January 17, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. Be sure to mention The Place at check out.

OUR VOICES MATTER monthly book discussion focusing on books with diverse characters by authors of all backgrounds will be held this Wednesday, January 17 at 5:00 p.m. at Guernsey Memorial Library. For details, contact the library at 607-334-4034.

NALOXONE TRAINING TO SAVE A LIFE will be held at the Guernsey Memorial Library on Wednesday, January 18 at 1:00 p.m. For details, contact the library at 607-334-4034.

PLEASE DON'T TAKE ANY RISKS to get to church on a Sunday morning if the weather is bad, especially since you can tune in to the livestream. If we cancel church all together, we will send an email to our weekly worship information list, post on Facebook and Instagram, and also announce it with message on the church phone (607-334-3434).

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE, Friday, January 19, 12:30 - 5:30 p.m. at the Broad St. United Methodist Church. Call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org to make your appointment.

CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

9:00am Nursery, upstairs

10:00am Worship, Nave

Sunday School grades 3 - 8

11:00am Fellowship coffee hour, Founders Rm.

MONDAY, JANUARY 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Church Office Closed

9:00am Home Bureau, Founders Rm./Kitchen

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Room

7:00pm Executive Council meeting, in person and Zoom

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

9:00am AARP Training, Founders Room

1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

- 9:00am AARP Tax Training, Founders Room
- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 4:00pm Laundry Love at Byrne Dairy laundromat,
E Main, Norwich.
- 6:10pm Democratic Committee, Founders Room
- 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Nave

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

- 5:00 p.m. Emmanuel Soul Kitchen free hot meal, sit down
service (takeout at 5:30pm)
- 6:00pm Helping Hands monthly give-away at the
Norwich YMCA.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

- 4:00pm Youth Group, upstairs

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

- 9:00am Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00am Worship, Nave
Sunday School grades 3 - 8
- 11:00am Fellowship coffee hour, Founders Rm.
- 11:30am Hand Bell Rehearsal, upstairs

January 14, 2024

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd

UCC New York Conference: Rev. Ryan Henderson

Susquehanna Association: Rev. Dr. Chris Xenakis

Liturgist: Miranda Hunter, Pastor Parish Relations

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Organist: David Burch

Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Ericka Tyler

Live Stream: Chris McSweeney, Jennifer Strough,
Liam Hunter

Sunday Sexton: Mya Yantz

Nursery: Fiora Breese

Fellowship 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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Tuesday-Thursday-Friday

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

(closed for lunch 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.)

