

SECOND
Sunday
IN
LENT



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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

February 25, 2024

10:00 a.m

Second Sunday in Lent; Communion

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Prelude on "Passion Chorale" by Theodore W. Ripper

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Do not be afraid to answer the call to discipleship.

ALL: What does the call require?

ONE: Letting go of our life as we know it. Following the way of the cross. Aligning our soul with God's.

ALL: We step out in the way of Jesus by losing our life to save it.

ONE: Do not be afraid to walk in the way of Jesus.

**ALL: We answer the call, unashamed and unafraid.
Amen.**

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Call to Worship and Prayer of Invocation from Worship Ways <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/lent-2b-february-25/>

Lenten Candle Liturgy from <https://processandfaith.org/lenten-candle-liturgy/>

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UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION .

O God, we are offered every opportunity to embrace the path that helps us gain the world at the expense of our soul. Instead, you have called us to yourself and to follow in the way of love and compassion. Teach us about Jesus' way and direct us away from the paths of self-absorption and greed. You have called us to discipleship, embracing your way with courage. May it be so. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You* #4
(Tune: HYMN TO JOY)

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Michael Moren

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.

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

LENTEN INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

ONE: O gracious God, we hear your voice calling us ...

ALL: To share whatever gift it is that you have given to us to do your work on Earth.

ONE: Gracious God, give us generous hearts ...

ALL: To acknowledge you as the giver of all good gifts, and to give without counting the cost.

ONE: Gracious God, give us generous hearts ...

ALL: To give without counting the cost, and to share without expecting something in return.

ONE: Gracious God, give us generous hearts ...

ALL: To share without expecting something in return.

ONE: Gracious God, give us generous hearts ...

ALL: To be wise in the way of caring for ourselves and others, and to hold all of our treasures and values with open hands.

ONE: Gracious God, give us generous hearts ...

ALL: To be gracious and unbegrudging in our giving, and to recognize the abundance of blessings in each passing day.

ONE: Gracious God, give us generous hearts ...

ALL: To grow in giving thanks for everything, to be happy with having what we need, and to be wise enough to know what it is that we want and do not need. . .

ONE: Give us generous hearts, and let us pray together....

ALL: O gracious God, who so generously lavishes our lives with goodness, create in our hearts a deep center of gratitude, a center that grows so strong in its thanksgiving that sharing freely of our treasures becomes the norm and the pattern of our existence. Remind us often of how much you cherish us, of how abundantly you have offered gifts to us, especially in the hours of our greatest need. May we always be grateful for your reaching into our lives with surprises of joy, growth, and unearned love. Amen.

*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

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Romans 4:13-25

Pew Bible OT p. 14
Pew Bible NT p. 161

SPECIAL MUSIC *Standing on the Promises of God*

Megan Carpenter, soloist music by R. Kelso Carter
arr. by Gary Lanier

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 6:11-22, 7:11-8:1-22, 9:11-17

Pew Bible OT pp. 6, 7, 8

Matthew 26:29

Pew Bible NT p. 30

HYMN *Before Your Cross, O Jesus,*
(Tune: ST. CHRISTOPHER)

insert

SERMON

The Nature of Covenants

Rev. James K. Boodley

INTERLUDE

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

by Robert Jackson

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Matthew 26:17-19, 26-29 (Pew Bible NT p. 30)

A TIME OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

LENTEN SERVICE OF DIMINISHING LIGHTS

UNISON PRAYER: Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, may we be open to your presence. Give us the strength to make the changes that are needed in our lives and the courage to take on the work of transforming the world. 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

What a Covenant
(Tune: LEANING)]

#471

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Prelude on "Detroit" (Forgive Our Sins)*
by Randolph Currie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THERE IS NO NURSERY AVAILABLE TODAY. Children of any age are always welcome in to stay in the Nave throughout the service.

MIRACLES IN MARCH - Have you experienced a miracle or a miraculous moment? Have you been surprised when difficult or impossible situations have been resolved in unexpected ways? If you are willing to share your story with others, either in writing or speaking, please contact the church office. We all could use a bit of inspiration at this time, and sharing our stories of miracles will speak to God's presence in our lives.

COMMUNITY LENTEN STUDY of the book *Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple*, Tuesdays Feb. 13 - Mar. 19. Lite Lunch 11:30 a.m., Study 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. at Broad St. United Methodist Church. Books are available.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS are available from the church office or website. **APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MARCH 30.**

LAY LEADERS NEEDED - During this time when we are without a member of clergy to lead a service, we are relying on lay leadership from the congregation. We are in need of folks who are willing to lead the worship service in pairs. Please check the bulletin board - many dates are open in March. And if you feel called to offer a message in the form of a mini sermon, please contact the church office.

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).

CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 - Second Sunday in Lent

- 9:00am Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00am Worship/Communion Nave (Sunday School grades 3-8)
- 11:00am Fellowship Coffee Hour, Founders Rm.
- 11:30am Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal, upstairs

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- 9:00am AARP Tax Preparation, Founders Rm./Kitchen
- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 3:00pm Tai Chi, Mayflower Rm.
- 7:00pm Deacons Meeting, Zoom

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- 11:30am Community Lenten Study with lunch at Broad St. UMC (see announcements)
- 1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen
- 7:00pm Executive Council Meeting, in person and on Zoom

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 9:00am AARP Tax Preparation, Founders Room/Kitchen
- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 5:00pm Chenango Family Food Co-Op Meeting, Founders Room
- 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Nave

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

- 9:00am AARP Tax Preparation, Founders Room/Kitchen

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

Church Office Closed

- 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

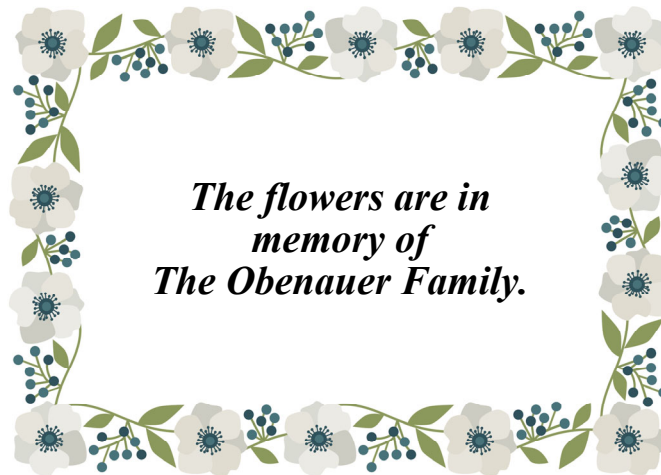
SATURDAY, MARCH 2

- 4:00pm Youth Group, upstairs

SUNDAY, MARCH 3 - Third Sunday in Lent

- 9:00am Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00am Worship, Nave (Sunday School grades 3-8)
- 11:00am Fellowship Coffee Hour, Founders Rm.
- 11:30am Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal, upstairs

February 4, 2024



TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Leading the Service: Rev. James K. Boodley

Liturgist: Michael Moren

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Organist: David Burch

Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Ericka Tyler

Children's Moment: Michael Moren

Live Stream: Chris McSweeney, Jessica Strough, Liam Hunter

Sunday Sexton: Mya Yantz

Coffee 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

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 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.)

