



A monthly publication of  
United Church of Christ, First Congregational, Norwich, NY

[www.uccnorwichny.org](http://www.uccnorwichny.org)



#### CONTACT US

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#### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Closed for lunch 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.)

Friday

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

#### WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays, 10:00 a.m. in the Nave

[Click here for live stream.](#)

Ministers: All the People

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



*Celebrate the Resurrection*

*Easter Sunday*

*March 31*

*10:00 a.m.*

*in the Nave or online*

[www.uccnorwichny.org/worship](http://www.uccnorwichny.org/worship)



**UNITED  
CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

*First Congregational of Norwich, NY*

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# Update from the Executive Council

Pete Williams, Moderator

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Over the last couple months the Executive Council has been meeting every 2 weeks attempting to stay on top of things that need attention as well as working on moving forward with a plan for some sort of pastor during this time. We have had Rev. J.K. Boodley (J.K.) at our church for a couple worship services and have been in discussions with him about filling in as our pastor in this time between settled pastors. He has come recommended by the New York Conference as a potential pastor who can help us through the transition time.

There have been several discussions with J.K. about how people are feeling, what we think we need, and potential paths forward that could benefit everyone involved. At our February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting the council voted to proceed with J.K. as a designated term pastor. This is somewhat different than an interim pastor as his length of term will be pre-determined and his involvement at our church will be somewhat limited. Over the last couple weeks the details to the call agreement have been finalized. I am excited to share that as of Friday March 15<sup>th</sup>, it has been sent to the Conference for approval. If all goes as planned, J.K. will be on board starting on April 1<sup>st</sup> for an initial 6 month period helping us move forward with the work to be done.

As I stated earlier, J.K.'s expected hours at Norwich will be limited and we should not expect him to step in and be doing all of our work. It is my understanding at this time that the scope of work will fall into three specific objectives. The first action would be to facilitate a discussion/s with the congregation to deal with understanding the issues which contributed to the resignation of Pastor Jason. We expect that there are feelings of grief, anger, or just confusion that need to be addressed to pull the complete congregation back together as one faith community working together.

The second, which should not need a ton of work, is just addressing the day-to-day business of the church. Over the last couple months, I feel folks stepped up and did what has been necessary on that front and kept things marching on.

The last would be the process of moving on with the work of updating the profile and getting us to a place of starting the search process for a full time settled pastor. I am looking forward to the possibilities that may lie in our path and how we may choose to serve God as a church family.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

On upcoming news, you may recall previous discussion about the need to update our By-Laws to address issues with the current leadership structure due to diminishing membership. During our latest congregational meeting in January, one common theme from all leadership boards was the struggle to fill all the positions required by the current By-Laws. We have been operating on less than optimal staffing in all leadership committees which was agreed on at the June congregational meeting. This By-Law update will propose to consolidate the responsibilities of the Board of Deacons and the Board of Trustees into one leadership council (Executive Council) while slightly increasing the members of this Council. This would eliminate both the Board of Deacons and the Board of Trustees. There are other details as to how this will work, but it opens up the possibilities for multiple, smaller, informal, action committees for getting the work done. There is a plan for a special congregational meeting to specifically vote on these By-Law changes in the near future. The current By-Laws require a 3-week notice prior to this meeting, copies of the current as well as the proposed By-Laws for adequate review prior to the vote. The date for this upcoming meeting will be communicated from the pulpit as well as all other available means. I urge you to review these By Laws, when made available, to be informed at the time of the vote. Stay tuned for the announcement of this special congregational meeting.

A dedication ceremony for both the Sound Booth and the Sunday School Room is planned to be held during the worship service on April 7, 2024. As you may recall during our 2023 budget vote, we voted to use a portion of the money endowed to the church from the Marcia Stewart estate to build the sound booth and upgrade the electronics for both live stream capabilities and for an upgrade and consolidation of all church electronics and controls. In addition, money was donated in memory of Linda Oehme for upgrades to the Sunday School room.

*continued on page 3*

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: UPCOMING EVENTS *continued*

Memorial plaques have been developed for installation reflecting the memory of our dear friend Linda Oehme and faithful benefactor Marcia Stewart.

The New York Conference of the United Church of Christ Annual Meeting this year will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup> and will convene at the Holiday Inn, in Binghamton, NY. Our church is allowed two delegates for attending this event. This event is open to any covenant member and with this event being so close to our location; it makes it convenient to attend. This would be a good opportunity to witness the workings of the conference and be a part of voting and the decision making process. It is also a good opportunity to meet people from the conference and other local area churches. If you have any desire to attend or would like additional information on this event, please contact Pete or Mary Williams (last year's attendees) or the church office and we can get you additional information. Registration deadline for this event is May 10, 2024.



## From the Deacons

### Pat Burke, Chair

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### Miracles in March

Thank you to everyone who answered the call for mini sermons and miracle stories! It has been heartwarming to see how we have supported each other as the body of Christ!

In February, Pete Williams led by example, and delivered a message on communication worthy of any pastor. Thank you, Pete, for sharing your walk as a disciple of Christ.

Then Elinor Beebe spoke about her trip to the Holy Land. In my mind, I walked across the promised land, as if I was there with her.

In March, Mary Williams shared a story of a modern miracle in the Holy Land, which just blew my mind away.

And then the next week, Bob Oehme brought tears to my eyes as I traveled with him from miracle to miracle with the love of his life, Linda.

Finally, Joe Phelps became transformed as he shared the miracles in his life. I have known him for at least 25 years, yet I did not know these stories. I see him in a different light now and my search for a stronger faith has been greatly impacted.

Over the last two months, we have come together as the body of Christ! We have pulled together and shared with each other and supported each other in our faith. All of these stories remind me that our triune God is capable of doing anything that He wills. Our job is to share these gifts and miracles with each other to remind us that God is with us, and God loves us.



## Music Ministries

### Mary Williams, Chair

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The combined choirs of UCC and Broad Street United Methodist have been meeting to prepare anthems for Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024. It has been several years since we have been able to do this in person. (In 2022, the choirs combined for virtual anthems on Palm Sunday and Easter.) We are grateful for the leadership of Pastor Mary Rublee of Broad Street UMC for hosting this joint service between our congregations. Hosanna!



**"Music deserves to be the mandatory second language of all schools in the world."**

*Paul Carvel*

## Music Committee

### Meena Conant, Chair


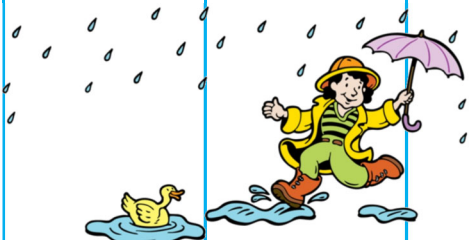


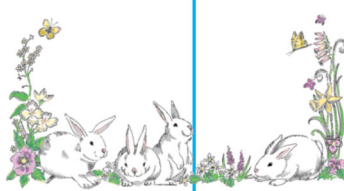



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Music and art are co-curricular subjects in schools. Often they are referred to as "specials," but they are indeed co-curricular, an integral part of the school day and a significant part of childhood development. This fact is paramount in why providing music students with scholarships for private lessons is so important. It should not be a luxury to take private music lessons, and thanks to UCC Norwich, students and families are not burdened by the enormous cost.

The Music Scholarship Committee is proud to announce that in the past year 13 students' music lessons have been funded by the United Church of Christ: 9 pianists and 4 vocalists. The budget has grown for this coming year and we are hopeful we can expand our reach. Currently, 7 students are being funded: 6 pianists, 1 vocalist. It is so nice that the UCC has been there to assist and support in getting students what they need. There is nothing more valuable than investing in youth and cultivating artistry in people.

# APRIL 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>31</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> 9:00am Nursery 10:00pm Worship No Coffee Hour 	<b>1</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> 9:00am AARP Tax Prep, Founders Rm. 10:00am Knitting Group, Mayflower Rm. 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Rm. 7:00pm Executive Council, Founders Rm.	<b>2</b> 1:00pm Piecemakers, kitchen	<b>3</b> 9:00am AARP Tax Prep, Founders Rm. 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 7:00pm Choir, Nave	<b>4</b> 9:00am AARP Tax Prep, Founders Rm. 	<b>5</b> 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom	<b>6</b> 4:00pm Youth Group, upstairs
<b>7</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship/ Communion Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Hour	<b>8</b> 9:00am AARP Tax Prep, Founders Rm. 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Rm. 7:00pm Monday Evening Musical Club concert. See p. 6.	<b>9</b> 1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen 5:00pm Pride Alliance Meeting, Founders Rm.	<b>10</b> 9:00am AARP Tax Prep, Founders Rm. 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 7:00pm Choir, Nave	<b>11</b> 1:00pm Piecemakers Meeting, Founders Rm.	<b>12</b> 9:00am AARP Tax Prep, Founders Rm. 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom	<b>13</b> 4:00pm Youth Group, upstairs 
<b>14</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Hour	<b>15</b> 9:00am AARP Tax Prep, Founders Rm. 10:00am Knitting Group, Mayflower Rm. 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00pm Tai Chi Founders Rm.	<b>16</b> 1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen 	<b>17</b> 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 4:00pm <a href="#">Laundry Love</a> at Byrne Dairy 6:10pm Democratic Committee, Founders Rm. 7:00pm Choir, Nave	<b>18</b> 5:00pm <a href="#">Soul Kitchen Free Hot Meal at Emmanuel Episcopal Church</a> 6:00pm <a href="#">Helping Hands Giveaway, YMCA</a>	<b>19</b> 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 	<b>20</b> 4:00pm Youth Group, upstairs
<b>21</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Hour 	<b>22</b> 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Rm. 5:30pm Town & Country Garden Club, Founders Rm./Kitchen 7:00pm Deacons Meeting, Zoom	<b>23</b> 1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen	<b>24</b> 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 5:00pm Chenango Food Co-Op meeting, Founders Rm. 7:00pm Choir, Nave	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b> 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom	<b>27</b> 9:00am <a href="#">Fourth Saturday Diaper Distribution, First Baptist Church</a> See p. 6. 4:00pm Youth Group, upstairs
<b>28</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Hour	<b>29</b> 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Rm.	<b>30</b> 1:00pm Piecemakers, Kitchen				

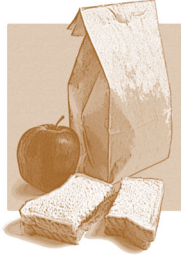
The Norwich Muslim Community meets upstairs every evening and Friday afternoon



## Volunteer Opportunity

### Bag Lunches at Food Pantry

Gary Brookins has started a small lunch bag program at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, aligned with the Our Daily Bread Food Pantry. The food pantry is open from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Friday, except for holidays and snow days.



He has been picking up the supplies to make a sandwich, and to add a fruit cup, spoon, cracker & cheese, water bottle, etc. to a paper lunch bag. He makes up 20 to 50 bags to hand out to the people who stop in at the food pantry.

To keep this program going, we would like to get some volunteers to make the lunch bags between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. on Food Pantry days. This will only take one or two people each day, and Gary will initially provide instruction on where the supplies are in the Emmanuel kitchen.

Emmanuel also offers a hot meal on the third Thursday at 5:00 p.m. in the months from September to May. In June, July & August, we provide free hot dogs, chips, and water from 11:00 to 12:00 on Wednesdays, outside the Parish Hall.

If anyone wishes to volunteer for the lunch bag program, please call the Emmanuel Office at 607-334-8801 and leave your name and phone number. They will call you back to see what dates you can help.

**The Monday Evening Musical Club**  
Presents  
**Guest soloists**  
**Dr. Kevin Moore,**  
**pianist, and**  
**Dr. David Rudari,**  
**baritone**  
Faculty Members-  
Onondaga Community College Music Dept.  
**Monday April 8, 7:00 PM**  
United Church of Christ -11 W. Main St., Norwich  
**FREE CONCERT**  
Donations to benefit MEMC Scholarship Fund  
*Thanks to the R.C. Smith Foundation for their generous support*  
**Please Follow Us At**  
Facebook.com/  
Mondayeveningmusicclub

## Fourth Saturday Diaper Distribution - April 27

### Diapers - Pullups - Wipes

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
at First Baptist Church, West Park Place

### Donations Needed

Did you know this program is run completely on donations? Thanks to the community and local businesses, the Fourth Saturday Diaper Distribution program has been able to help countless children since 2015.

We are ALWAYS needing diapers, pullups and wipes, especially sizes 4, 5, and 6 and 4T/5T pullups. Even one package helps. We accept all brands as well as monetary donations. Please consider making a donation today! Donations can be dropped off during the distribution. Or contact 607-336-2509

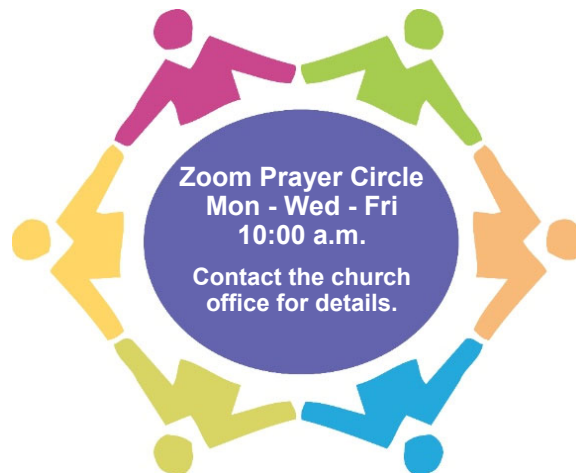


## Prayer Concerns

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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, Russia, Israel, Gaza, Haiti



## Celebrations

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Vincent and Karen Mallozzi - 4/17/71

Chad and Meena Conant - 4/21/07



16 Richie Bonney

23 Ericka Tyler

26 Paul Currie

30 Neil Conant

# Solar Eclipse - Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>

Chenango County will experience around 98% totality, or you can head to Syracuse for the total eclipse. No matter where you are, be sure to use certified safety glasses or other safe viewing methods. Go to [eclipse2024.org](http://eclipse2024.org) for information.

## Eye Safety



Partial Eclipse (Use filter)      Total Eclipse (No filter)      Partial Eclipse (Use filter)

**✗ NOT SAFE**

Ordinary sunglasses are not strong enough to protect your eyes.



**✓ SAFE**

Use specially designed solar eclipse glasses and viewers to block the sun's harmful rays.



**✗ NOT SAFE**

Wearing solar eclipse glasses to look through a camera, binoculars or a telescope will not protect your eyes.



**✓ SAFE**

Use only specially designed filters for lenses.



Source: American Academy of Ophthalmology and American Astronomical Society

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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