

# UCC News

JUNE 2024

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

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



### CONTACT US

11 West Main St. Norwich NY 13815  
607-334-3434  
[office@uccnorwichny.org](mailto:office@uccnorwichny.org)

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,  
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
(Closed for lunch from 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  
Pastor: Rev. James K. Boodley  
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

## Annual Meeting



**Call to the  
June Annual Meeting  
Sunday, June 23  
after the worship service  
in the Founders Room.**

**All members are encouraged to attend.  
We will be voting on the 2024-25  
Board Members and Officers.**

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**UNITED  
CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**  
*First Congregational of Norwich, NY*

# From the Pastor

Rev. James K. Boodley

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## So Much Stuff

I recently had the joy of attending my nephew's college graduation. The weather was spectacular, the commencement speakers all offered their congratulations, and the students and their families were exceptionally excited about the big day. After the pomp-and-circumstance, awarding of degrees, and post-ceremony pictures were taken, there came the task of loading up the graduates' belongings and heading out of town. The scene is being repeated at college campuses across the country this time of year. And at campuses across the country, all of those students and their families realize they had far too much stuff to fit into their vehicles. The result: an incredible amount of perfectly good everything – furniture, clothing, computer equipment, etc. – being left in dorms and dumpsters, apartments and alleys, and occasionally even at the local thrift store. For people in the local community, “dumpster diving” is a time-honored tradition this time of year. Need a couch or computer? You'll probably find one sitting curbside. All in great condition, all too easily replaced wherever the graduates will be taking up residence next.

Scripture has its share of insights about the excessive amount of possessions people have accumulated throughout history. Probably the most familiar is the story of the rich young man who asked Jesus, “What good deed must I do to have eternal life?” Jesus answered him by listing the various commandments, including loving your neighbor as yourself. The young man answered, “I have kept all these; what do I still lack?” Jesus replied, “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven, then come, follow me.” As the passage concludes, we read, “When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.” Jesus explained to his disciples, “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter of the kingdom of God.” Astonished, his disciples asked, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus replied, “For mortals, it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.”

The other familiar story line about possessions is in Matthew 6:

**“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also... No one can serve two masters for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”**

Another passage that might seem like an odd choice also applies:

**“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”**

Being among the family members who helped my nephew put three carloads of stuff in storage until he can move into his new apartment this fall, I can vouch that all of his possessions required a significant effort to move



from one place to the next. And yet we were happy to help him in that effort. It might have been tempting to tell him, "You have far too much crap!" but who would we have been to talk? We all carry around far too much stuff in our lives. That's true physically, mentally, and spiritually. Jesus offered the rich young man the option of unburdening himself from all of his possessions, yet the young man went away grieving at the idea. Earlier in his ministry, Jesus explained you can't serve both God and wealth. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." He even reminded his followers that he would give them rest, for his yoke was easy and his burden was light.

And yet. And yet we don't. We convince ourselves we need to schlep around all that we have accumulated, thinking our possessions offer a form of security. Perhaps we're not quite able to believe that taking Jesus at his word will work out for us. And so, like Jacob Marley and his chains, we keep dragging around the burdens we've accumulated in life. At first, when the world is new for us at the beginning of adulthood, we have the energy to do so. Given enough time, however, we might come to realize the offer Jesus makes is by far the better choice. Maybe it's time to take him up on that offer.

In hope - and faith,

J.K.

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## Open House and Garden Spruce-up at the Parsonage - May 2



Joanne Lanfear, Judy Smith and Kaiser at the open house.



Flower bed at the front of the parsonage.



Augustina Rivera and Pat Burke taking a break from gardening.

# Executive Council

## Pete Williams, Moderator

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For all of you that have not heard, the proposed changes to the by-laws were unanimously approved by the congregational body at our congregational meeting held on April 28, 2024. With this approval and the effective date of July 1, 2024, the current Executive Council has been having discussions about how the new leadership structure and the action committees will function and some of the details behind the scene. It has become clear, and we all acknowledge, that there will be some growing pains as we work through the details once this new structure is in place and functioning after 7/1/24. Rest assured, we will get through these issues and I have faith that what may seem like a bunch of unorganized little action committees off working on a bunch little projects may seem uncontrollable and inefficient but will work their way to becoming an easy way to just get the work done. I do believe that the one key part of this structure is adequate communication and clear expectations for these action committees. I do look forward to the possibilities of this leaner structure and one decision making entity.

There is one feature of this structure that is key for making it successful. We will need people willing to be **involved with these small, focused, action committees. The Executive Council is not expected to “do all the work”.** They are expected to be involved, and be willing to be the spokesperson of the action committees keeping the executive council current with status, progress, or issues. Currently our nominating committee has started to assess current roles as well as future needs and will be working to obtain willing people to fill the roles of the Executive Council. It is critical that these positions are staffed appropriately for adequate operation of the council and future progression of the leadership positions. I would like to take this opportunity to assure anyone thinking about or asked to be on this executive council, action committee, or even the committee working on searching for a **settled pastor to consider this message about serving God, “You don’t have to be perfect – only willing”.**

On the theme of roles and positions, the Church is now looking for any qualified and willing person to become the Treasurer of the church. This position is a part time paid staff position primarily work-at-home situation. The leadership has started reaching out to potential qualified individuals looking to fill this position. A person with some sort of accounting background would be ideal for this position as support for the current treasurer will be available for specific reports and activities. Anyone wishing further information about this position or may have someone that may be interested in filling this role, is asked to contact the church office.

## Upcoming Events

Plans are moving forward for the replacement of the carpet in the Nave. Money for this project has been included **in this year’s budget and the discussion to have the project completed this summer has begun. Summer services** will be impacted as this space will not be available for several weeks but we have other options for worship services which are being discussed as we move closer to the summer season. This project will involve the removal of the pews to allow access for a completely new sub-floor and carpet installation.

## Letters - Emails - Notes

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Dear UCC,

The Friends of Rogers Board of Directors and staff want to thank you for your generous donation. Rest assured the funds will be used to continue to provide outstanding educational opportunities that excite, inspire and motivate people of all ages. The hiking trails and programs we make available are designed to allow all to enjoy, understand, appreciate and protect our natural environment. Your support has helped make this possible. We realize you have options to support various other organizations and your decision to aid us in our mission for a protected environment is very much appreciated.



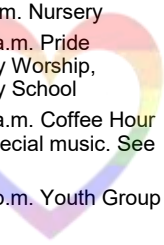


Thank you again for all you do!

David W. Carson, Executive Director  
Friends of Rogers

# June



The Muslim Community meets daily at 9:00 p.m. and Friday afternoons for prayer.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 UCCNY Conference Annual Meeting in Binghamton
2 9:00 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship, Communion, Sunday School <i>Strengthen the Church Offering</i> 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 12:30 p.m. Youth Group	3 10:00 a.m. Knitting, Kitchen 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Kitchen 7:00 p.m. Executive Council, Chapel and Zoom 7:00 p.m. Norwich Theater Co., Founders	4 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Kitchen 4:00 p.m. St. Bart's Soup Kitchen 7:00 p.m. Norwich Theater Co., Founders Rm.	5 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 11:00 a.m. Free Lunch at Emmanuel Episcopal 7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave 7:00 p.m. Norwich Theater Co., Founders Rm.	6 7:00 p.m. Hospice Service of Remembrance. See p. 6. 	7 7:00 p.m. Norwich Theater Co., Founders Rm.	8
9 9:00 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship, Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 12:30 p.m. Youth Group	10 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Kitchen	11 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Kitchen 4:00 p.m. St. Bart's Soup Kitchen 5:00 p.m. Pride Alliance Board Mtg., Founders Rm.	12 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 11:00 a.m. Free Lunch at Emmanuel Episcopal 7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave	13 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers Monthly Meeting, Founders Room	14 	15
16 9:00 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Pride Sunday Worship, Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour with special music. See p. 8. 12:30 p.m. Youth Group 	17 10:00 a.m. Knitting, Kitchen 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Kitchen 	18 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Kitchen 4:00 p.m. St. Bart's Soup Kitchen	19 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 11:00 a.m. Free Lunch at Emmanuel Episcopal 4:00 p.m. Laundry Love at Byrne Dairy 7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave 6:10 p.m. Democratic Comm., Founders Rm.	20 6:00 p.m. Helping Hands Give-away at the YMCA	21 <b>DEADLINE FOR JULY/ AUGUST NEWSLETTER ARTICLES</b>	22 9:00 a.m. Fourth Saturday Diaper Give- away at First Baptist Church
23 9:00 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship, Rev. Ryan Henderson preaching, Recognition of Members in Long- Standing 11:00 a.m. Annual Meeting and Coffee Hour 4:30 p.m. Free Community Dinner at Broad St. UMC.	24 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Kitchen 6:30 p.m. Town & Country Garden Club, Founders Room.	25 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Kitchen 4:00 p.m. St. Bart's Soup Kitchen 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting, Zoom	26 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom 11:00 a.m. Free Lunch at Emmanuel Episcopal 7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave	27 	28	29
30 9:00 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship, 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour						

# Be Tick Free this Spring and Summer

## From the Chenango County Department of Public Health

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection caused by the bite of an infected deer tick. Untreated, the disease can cause several health problems. Patients treated with antibiotics in the early stage of the infection usually recover rapidly and completely.

New York typically reports the highest number of Lyme disease cases in the nation. While there are year-to-year variations, New York State has averaged more than 7,500 new cases annually over the last 10 years. People should take precautions during warmer months to protect themselves from being bitten by disease-carrying ticks.

### How Can I Protect Against Ticks and Prevent Lyme Disease?

Deer ticks live in shady, moist areas at ground level. They will cling to tall grass, brush and shrubs, usually no more than 18-24 inches off the ground. They also live in lawns and gardens, especially at the edges of woods and around old stone walls. Deer ticks cannot jump or fly, and do not drop onto passing people or animals. They get on humans and animals only by direct contact. Once a tick gets on the skin, it generally climbs upward until it reaches a protected area.

In tick-infested areas, your best protection is to avoid contact with soil, leaf litter and vegetation. However, if you garden, hike, camp, hunt, work, or otherwise spend time in the outdoors, you can still protect yourself:

- Wear light colored clothing with a tight weave to spot ticks easily. Wear enclosed shoes, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Tuck pant legs into socks or boots and shirt into pants.
- Check clothes and any exposed skin frequently for ticks while outdoors.
- Consider using insect repellent. Always read and carefully follow the instructions on product labels.
- Stay on cleared, well-traveled trails. Walk in the center of trails. Avoid dense woods and bushy areas.
- Avoid sitting directly on the ground or on stone walls.
- Keep long hair tied back, especially when gardening.
- Bathe or shower as soon as possible after going indoors (preferably within two hours) to wash off and more easily find ticks that may be on you.
- Do a final, full-body tick r light-check at the end of the day (also check children & pets) remove ticks promptly.

### How Can I Safely Remove a Tick?

If you DO find a tick attached to your skin, do not panic. Not all ticks are infected, and your risk of Lyme disease is greatly reduced if the tick is removed within the first 36 hours.

To remove a tick:

- Use a pair of pointed tweezers to grasp the tick by the head or mouth parts right where they enter the skin. DO NOT grasp the tick by the body.
- Pull firmly and steadily outward. DO NOT jerk or twist the tick.
- Place the tick in a small container of rubbing alcohol to kill it.
- Clean the bite wound with rubbing alcohol or hydrogen peroxide after removing the tick.
- Call your health care provider to report the tick.

<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/lyme/>

If you have any further questions about Lyme disease or ticks, contact your healthcare provider or the Chenango County Health Department at 337-1660 for more information.



Each spring, Hospice holds an interfaith Memorial Service to honor those who have died in their program. The service includes musical performances, readings, and a ceremony to remember loved ones. Family members, friends and community members are welcome to join us to light a candle in honor of those they have lost. The service will be held on **June 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hospice office, 33-39 Court St., Norwich.** Contact the Hospice Grief Services Coordinator Jordyn Andrews with any questions – 607



# Local Missions Committee

Pete Williams, Chair

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As ambassadors of the congregation of the church, the missions committee would like to take this opportunity to share with you the organizations that have been supported by the church through the local missions activity. I would like to share a little background on our vision of the local missions group. In 2023 the committee agreed to have more of a strategic focus specifically on how we can support local opportunities and let other avenues of our Missions work support the national and world-wide disaster support. Given this focus, one of our decisions on incoming requests is to assess who will benefit from this donation and try to select and support truly local causes which will impact the lives of the people in our local community. With that being said, below is a listing of the organizations the missions committee has selected to receive funding so far in 2024, to support the work they are doing.

- After Prom Party-NHS
- Aunt Mary's House
- BSUMC Community Dinner
- CV Free Methodist Church - "Story Tour" Event
- Chenango County Historical Society - Elinor Robb Troicke Memorial Scholarship
- Chenango County SPCA
- Chenango Family Food Co-op
- Family Planning of South Central NY
- Friends of Rogers
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hospice & Palliative Care
- Mothers & Babies Prenatal Network
- Red Cross of Southern New York
- The Impact Project
- The Place

If you have any questions on our process, would like any additional information on the above listed organizations, or if you have any interest being involved with the work of the local mission committee, please contact any current committee members (Pete Williams, Norma Kinney, Judy Smith, and Wade Burke).

## From the Deacons

Pat Burke, Chair

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We the church are going through an experience of thinking out of the box. We realize that a lot can be accomplished by asking others to work in areas where they are gifted and make them happy. I, for example, discovered that I just love working with Mary to find the perfect hymns to support every sermon. In reality, it gives me a joy I was not aware of before. From this experience, I am now not afraid to work in an area which I never considered before. Yes, I, like a **lot of us, do not like changes because I don't like to leave my comfort zone. But that is one of the gifts of God, I** think. Many sisters and brothers have started to help with coffee hour without being asked. To me, that is new and it makes me happy. Thank you to all of you who have helped with coffee hour, and thank you to those who serve in the many other areas of the church, such as liturgists, serving on committees, decorating for holidays, singing in the choir.

Since the printing of the last newsletter, the Deacons Fund has helped with the following needs:

- A cell phone for a homeless man staying at Super 8 to assist him in finding employment.
- Assist First Baptist Church to house a family with several children in the Super 8 while waiting for an apartment.

Thank you to those who donated to the Deacons Fund in May. If you would like to donate to the Deacons Fund, you can use the envelopes in the pews, write Deacons on your check memo, or go to [www.uccnorwichny.org/give](http://www.uccnorwichny.org/give).

# Music Ministries

## Mary Williams, Chair

### Combined Congregations Celebrate the Birthday of the “Church”

Our congregation worshiped with our brothers and sisters in Christ at the Broad Street United Methodist Church on Pentecost Sunday May 19, 2024. Musical offerings were shared by the combined choir and the UCC Bell Choir. A time of fellowship followed the service where birthday cake was served.



Combined Choir members-Left to Right; David Burch, accompanist, Elspeth Hunter, Michael Moren, Steve Runion, Deb Sanderson, Pat Burke, Pete Williams, Ericka Tyler, Rich Griffin, Destinie Smith, Mary Williams (director), Miranda Hunter (hidden), Bob Oehme, Amy Rogers, Craig Lawson, Megan Carpenter, Joyce Lawson.



Ringers: (back row) Pete Williams, Maxine Gage, Michael Moren, John Kolb (front row) Ericka Tyker, Destinie Smith, Lilit Danielyan, Amy Rogers, Megan Carpenter, Janet Johnson, Alyssa Jutting. Mary Williams, director.

*“Music can change the world because it can change people.” - Bono*

**UCC Music Lesson Scholarship Students  
will share their music  
June 16**

**following the worship service in the Founders Room**

**For details about our Music Lesson Scholarship program,  
click [here](#) or contact the church office.**





# 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
- 



### Birthdays

- 1 Jane Prime
- 5 Jenna Bonney
- 13 Jessica Posner
- 18 Bill Aitken
- 24 Elizabeth Brewer
- 26 Brooke Bonney
- 27 June Granz
- 28 Jack Brereton

### Anniversaries

- 06/10/2017 Richie and Jenna Bonney
- 06/12/1993 Jeff and Janet Johnson



## **HIRING: CHURCH TREASURER**

Part-time paid position, open as of July 1.

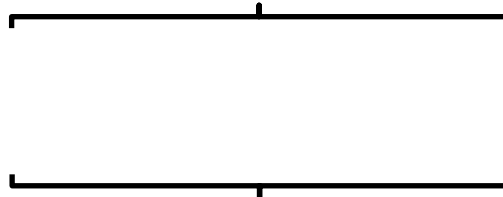
Anyone with an interest or experience in accounting is encouraged to apply.

Send a letter of interest to the church office at 11 West Main Street or email [office@uccnorwichny.org](mailto:office@uccnorwichny.org).



## Pride Sunday - June 16 Worship service at 10:00 a.m.

In June 2000, our congregation adopted a Statement of Inclusion to become an Open and Affirming Congregation. At our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2020, we began holding a Pride Sunday every June. This year Pride Sunday is on June 16. We hope you will join us in supporting and celebrating the diversity of God's people. No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey, you are beloved by God and you are welcome here.



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

11 West Main Street  
Norwich, NY 13815-1612

