

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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

August 18, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous.

ALL: **It is good for the just to sing God's praises.**

ONE: Happy are the people whose God is the Lord!

ALL: **Happy are the people chosen by God!**

ONE: Let your loving kindness be upon us, O Lord.

ALL: **As we have put our trust in you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Gracious and loving Lord Jesus, you once said God would hear our requests asked in your name. Therefore, we humbly lay before you our petitions for wisdom and discernment that will contribute to peace and justice throughout your realm, for warm hearts and open arms to welcome the stranger in our midst, and for generous spirits to care for all those who are in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Please stand in body or in spirit.**

2 Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

*OPENING HYMN

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

#290 (vv. 1, 4, 5)

TIME OF SHARING

UNISON INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Gracious God, we give you thanks for your abundant goodness and blessings. In gratitude, we lay before you what you have first given us – ourselves as well as our time, talents, and treasures. We dedicate all that we are and all that we have to your service for the sake of Jesus the Christ, who first gave himself for us. In his name we pray. Amen.

*Offering plates are located at both doors or
give online at www.uccnorwichny.org/give*

SPECIAL MUSIC *Grace Alone*

by Scott Wesley Brown and Jeff Nelson
Michael Moren and Pat Burke, duet

INSTALLATION OF THE TRANSITION COMMITTEE

GREETING

ONE: Grace, mercy, and peace to you from Jesus, the Christ, the head of the church.

ALL: **To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. In Jesus' name, amen.**

INTRODUCTION

ONE: Affirmation of ministry is the act by which a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

ALL: **There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.**

ONE: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

ALL: The Spirit's presence is shown in each person for the good of all.

ONE: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

ALL: It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

ONE: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

ALL: All of us are Christ's body, and each one of us is part of it.

PRESENTATION

Members of the Transition Committee

Miranda Hunter, Judy Smith, Michael Moren, Ed Tucker, Jessica Strough, Mary Williams and (name?), who will serve as the alternate member.

AFFIRMATION

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus the Christ. We promise to continue loving you, honoring your leadership and your work, and to assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Christ Jesus.

CHURCH COVENANT

We commit to creating and maintaining a Christ centered community that nurtures and values each member and fosters our spiritual growth. We assume personal responsibility to use our individual and collective talents and resources to reach out to each other, the wider community and the world.

PRAYERS

ONE: May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for the ministry on the Transition Committee of this church, the United Church of Christ, First Congregational of Norwich, and may the Holy Spirit equip you with everything good to do God's will. And the people of God say,

ALL: Amen.

ONE: Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent that your church may prosper in the mission You place before it. May their example be worthy, as we are united in the ministry of Christ, Jesus. And once again, let the people of God say,

ALL: Amen.

DECLARATION

BLESSING OF PEACE

ONE: May the Peace of Jesus Christ be with all of you.

ALL: And also with you.

*Please greet one another in a manner most comfortable to you:
hug, wave, fist bump, handshake.*

SUNG RESPONSE *Bind Us Together*

Insert

SERMON: *Living Wisely: More Instructions to the Ephesians*

Rev. James K. Boodley

Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-20

Pew Bible pp. 207

INTERLUDE *Abide with Me*

Tune: EVENTIDE

by William H. Monk, 1861

Heavenly Mahaffey and Fiora Breese, clarinets

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**

God, Speak to Me, that I May Speak

#531 (vv. 1-4)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

PARTICIPANTS TODAY

Ministers: All the People

Pastor: Rev. James K. Boodley

Liturgist:

Moderator: Pete Williams

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Organist: David Burch

Soloists: Pat Burke, Michael Moran, Fiora Breese, Heavenly Mahaffey

Livestream Director: Jennifer Mallozzi

Livestream Staff: Chris McSweeney, Jessica Strough, Liam Hunter

Sunday Sexton: Mya Yantz

Nursery: Fiora Breese

Coffee Hour: Pat Burke

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

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CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

Monday-Tuesday-Thursday

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

