



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

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



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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

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

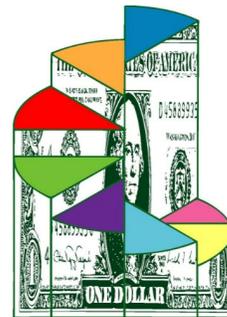
Sexton: Eric Burgher

# Budget Meeting

## Sunday October 27

in the Founders Room  
after the Worship Service

All are encouraged to attend this informational budget meeting and presentation of a draft of the 2025 budget.



# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

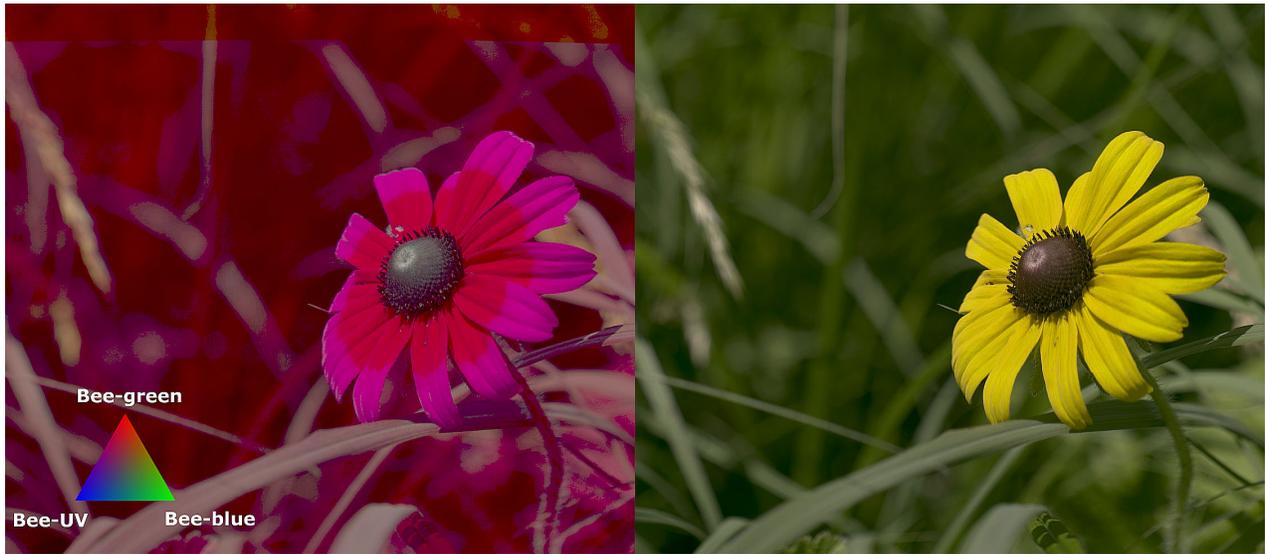
First Congregational of Norwich, NY

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# From the Pastor

## Rev. James K. Boodley



Bee's view of flower (left) in "Recording animal-view videos of the natural world" PLOS Biology (January 23, 2024)  
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3002444>

### Living in Different Worlds

Last month, we considered how our planet is streaking through the universe at a hard-to-comprehend speed. What's even harder to comprehend is the idea we may be living in a multi-verse, with our universe existing with innumerable other universes. That might be a bit of a stretch for many of us to take in, however, it's not hard to see how we're all living in different worlds, even when we're all on the same planet. Take a look at the above picture. It's from a newly developed process scientists have developed to see the world from the perspectives of different species, such as honeybees. (See <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3002444>.) To us, the black-eyed susans we see in the fall look like the picture on the right. Honeybees (and other insects), however, see ultraviolet light, making their world look more like the picture on the left. The same is true for many of the species with which we share this planet, especially those living in different ecosystems. Every form of aquatic life, for example, experiences the world very differently from life on land.

As for our own species, different cultural and environmental influences have a tremendous impact on what we perceive as "normal" everyday life. If any of us won a trip to the heart of the Amazon, for example, how many of us wouldn't be dazzled by the variety of life we'd encounter daily; by travel via motorboat up and down the river; by the sights, sounds, smells and tastes we'd experience; and by the customs and habits of the people we'd encounter? Yes, we'd know we hadn't left planet Earth, however, we'd also know we were surrounded by a new (to us) entirely unfamiliar (to us) different world. To quote Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz*, we'd realize, "we're not in Kansas [or upstate New York] anymore."

Take the above one step further: our perception of the world around us depends entirely on how our brains make use of the information it receives from our senses. We create our own worlds. A color-blind person's world, for example, isn't the same as that of someone who perceives color. There are online videos of color-blind people who receive special glasses allowing them to see colors as the rest of us see them. The color-blind individuals' reactions are extremely emotional as they look around with their new glasses at a world the rest of us take for granted. *Our sense of reality – the world in which we live – is that of our own making.* (Read that again, slowly, allowing it to sink in.)

These days, we're all extremely aware of the *apparent* divisions between Americans as we look at Election Day coming up next month. Even in our own families, we may wonder, "What in the world is wrong with them? How can they think that way? How does that even make sense?" The answers to those questions will elude us until we realize each of us live in different worlds, different realities. Our understanding of the world depends entirely on what information we allow into our brains then how we interpret that information. Personally, I've become extremely careful about what I watch on TV and what I see online. Like a mouse that enters a house, once what I watch or read or hear gets into my head, it can cause all manner of mischief after it bypasses my mental safeguards.

In the social media world such as Facebook (FB), there are algorithms that analyze what we find interesting then arrange for us to see more of the same as we spend time online. Watch a story about cake decorating online, for example, and you'll suddenly see all type of information about cake decorating on your FB page. In the real world, the same thing occurs: it's called "confirmation bias." We tend to notice that which confirms our already established ideas about how the world operates. (Mark Twain once wrote, "People go to church to have their prejudices confirmed.") Confirmation bias is a deeply ingrained (ie., instinctive) adaptation that enables us to fit into the social group in which we find ourselves. It's a survival mechanism. When Jesus talked about the kingdom of God, he was instructing his followers – and us – to adopt the mindset of loving God and loving our neighbor (ie., humanity). He was encouraging his followers – and us – to use love, empathy, kindness and concern for others as the "filters" with which we interpret – and construct – the reality in which we live. If we're willing to do that, we'll realize the kind of world we've all be yearning to live all along: one based on love, empathy, kindness and concern. Same planet. Entirely different world.

In faith – and in hope,  
J.K.



## Update from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chenango County Pride Event

By Pete Williams



The Second annual Chenango County Pride Alliance Festival was held on August 24<sup>th</sup> at Boname Park in Oxford. Mike Moren and I staffed the booth for the event. As a first time attendee of this event I was amazed at the both the attendance and the amount of vendors at this event. The day was spent greeting people at our booth, talking to friends, making new contacts, and touching base with familiar organizations the church has contributed to but never have put a face to the organization. I also had no idea what to expect going into this event but was pleasantly surprised on how friendly everyone was. At the end of the day I was feeling proud and honored to be involved and representing our church throughout this event. We had multiple occasions where the

folks visiting our booth were glad to see a religious organization supporting the event. This event included a main entertainment tent which had different events throughout the day for people to watch and be entertained as well as superior food trucks which supplied a variety of food, ice-cream, and drinks. I also learned that the monthly Chenango Pride Committee meetings are held in our church. I look forward to supporting and being involved with this event in the future and would recommend others to not be shy about getting involved as well. The weather was great and a good time was had by all.

# Children and Youth Ministries

Ericka Tyler, Director

A big welcome back to all of our Sunday School students after a well deserved summer break! We are kicking off this fall with a four week unit all about Jesus and some of the stories he told!

As I am sure you know, many things are hard to understand — like maybe chemistry or math, verb conjugations, or why your friend is mad at you. When we face a problem, situation, or idea we're struggling to understand, it always helps to know someone we trust can explain it to us.



When Jesus was here on earth, he spent a lot of time helping his followers understand some pretty hard-to-understand ideas about God. One of the ways Jesus often made complicated ideas simpler was by explaining them through **stories** and **metaphors**, which we call **parables**.

So, in this four-week series from the Gospels called *Please Explain*, we'll explore *four* of the parables Jesus told his followers to explain four important truths about God. These parables help us see that- **God's words are a firm foundation, In God's kingdom, everyone belongs, God's words invite a response** and that **God's kingdom is always growing**.

In October, we will begin a series entitled *Sent Together*, a four week unit all about evangelism. We all want to be part of something significant. We want to make a difference! We dream of making an impact and leaving the world better than we found it. Some people try to change the world all alone, but the people who've made the biggest and most positive differences in the world know you can't do anything truly significant on your own. Jesus told us this on his last day on earth. He gave his followers a mission that would change the world — but he made it clear we couldn't do it alone. He was sending us on a mission together.



In this series from the New Testament, we'll learn from Jesus and some of his earliest followers that Jesus **sends us on a mission** — a mission that can **bring healing**, that can only be accomplished **together**, and that we can **boldly** choose to be a part of.

We are geared up for learning! We have some exciting lessons in store over the next two units/series (8 weeks). Our Sunday School lessons will be aimed toward 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders this year, but as always, all students are welcome to attend who are in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up!

And don't worry! Our *Free 2B Me Youth Group* will resume meeting on Sundays from 12:30 to 2 pm on 9/29. This is a safe space for anyone in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up to come hang out, enjoy some music and games, and experience an environment where you can be free to be completely YOU! Stay tuned for additional announcements and updates via email, the weekly church bulletin and newsletters!

**FREE  
2B  
ME** Youth  
Group

Grades 5 - 12  
LGBTQ+ and Allies

607-334-3434



# Music Ministries

## Mary Williams, Director



Special music was provided by the clarinet trio (L to R): Lily Turnbull, Heavenly Mahaffey, Flora Breese. They performed *How Deep The Father's Love For Us* on September 29.

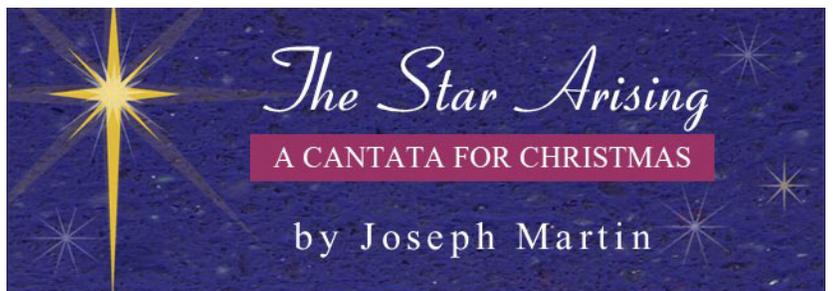


Parish Coordinator, Cheri Oakley, will accompany the choir on flute on Sunday, October 6. The anthem is entitled *We Are the Body of Christ*.



**The Handbell Choir** resumes rehearsals this month. Are you interested in ringing with us? There are currently open spots and we provide on-the-job training! Basic music reading skills and the ability to distinguish your left hand from your right hand is really all that is needed!

**Calling all singers:** Rehearsals begin on October 27 for the Christmas Cantata, *The Star Arising* by Joseph Martin. Registration information will be available this month on line and through the church office. All are invited to participate. Contact the church office or Mary Williams <marywilliams@uccnorwicyny.org> for more information.



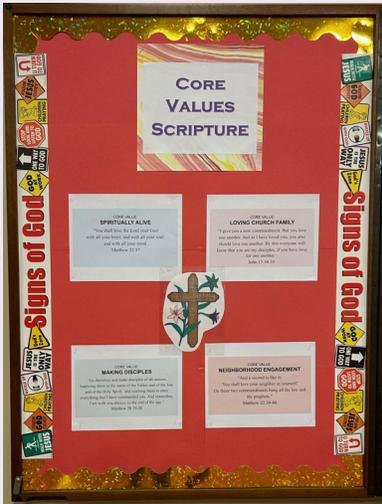
## Scholarships for Music Lessons



If you know anyone taking private music lessons, they can get a scholarship from UCC's Music Committee to ease the burden before the holidays! Call the church office and it can all be set up very easily.

# The Action Committee Potluck Was a Success!

The purpose of the Action Committees is to share the work of the church in meaningful ways and to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to share their ideas, hopes, and dreams for the direction of the various ministries of our church. You can find information about the various committees on the bulletin board in the Founders Room. To sign up, speak with Cheri in the Church Office or with any Executive Council member. A special thank you goes out to Jessica Strough and Jennifer Mallozzi for updating the bulletin boards in the Founders Room.



## Staff News



### Welcome to Our New Treasurer

Bridget Rice was hired as our new Treasurer in July and spent the summer and early fall training with Janet Johnson. She says, "I'm thrilled to be your new Treasurer! Originally from Oxford and now living in Guilford, I have a background in accounting and business administration. In my free time, I enjoy hiking with my corgi, Cooper, traveling, and meeting new people. I've loved getting to know everyone so far and look forward to connecting with even more of you."



### Farewell to Our Historian

Pat Evans, has resigned her position as Church Historian as of October 1, 2024. Pat has faithfully served as Historian since 2008. She was instrumental in moving our important records to the History Room upstairs where she worked diligently to organize and properly store them. For the church's 200<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration in 2014, she wrote monthly articles about the founders and pastors of our church, created a commemorative Christmas Ornament, and assisted with planning the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events throughout that year. We are grateful and blessed by her expertise and will miss her in this role.

## Colors Cape Award 2024



Moderator Pete Williams, and Vice Moderator Debra Phelps accept the 2024 Colors Cape Award on behalf of UCC Norwich on September 7, 2024. We received this recognition for our years of support of the Colorscape Chenango Arts Festival through letting them use our kitchen and making our parking lot available for handicapped parking. Letting our facilities be used by non-profit organizations is just one way that our church serves the community.



**Monday, October 7  
6:00 p.m.**

**in the Founders Room**

The church plans to install an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Machine.

A training class on it's use is being offered to our congregation.

*Class size is limited.*

Sign up in the church office.



# THANKSGIVING *Baskets*

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

1. **Donate Non-Perishable Food (no glass): Rolled Oats, Vegetables, Cranberry Sauce, Gravy, Stuffing Mix** - Bring in anytime on or before November 10<sup>th</sup>. A container will be available in the Founders Room.
2. **Money** to help purchase food in bulk. Bring to the church office or put in the offering plate. Be sure you mark it for Thanksgiving Boxes.
3. **Volunteer** - There will be a sign up sheet available later in October.

**For more information, talk to Jessica Strough (607-373-7158).**

Monday Evening Musical Club

### Past Scholarship Winners Concert

**Monday, October 7, 7:00 p.m.**

United Church of Christ, 11 W Main St., Norwich

**Free and open to the public.**

Donations accepted for the Music Scholarship Fund.

Livestream: <https://www.facebook.com/MondayEveningMusicClub>



## News from Our Daily Bread

Our Daily Bread was pleased to learn that Norwich Rotary Club was successful with the grant application submitted to the Rotary District last spring. The grant is for \$1,500.00. Norwich Rotary Club will provide matching funds of \$500 and Our Daily Bread will add an additional \$1,000 making the overall project value \$3,000. Our Daily Bread would like to thank the Norwich Rotary Club and the Rotary Club Grant Committee for all the work that was done resulting in the receipt of this grant.

Our Daily Bread would also like to thank R. C. Smith Foundation for the grant moneys received in July for the purchase of food and milk vouchers for the pantry.

Member churches and community members and organizations have continued to be generous with monetary donations as well as donations of food. We certainly couldn't feed the numbers of people that are currently coming to the pantry on a monthly basis without all this support. In August, we provided supplemental food and milk to 207 families consisting of 599 people.

We would like to thank you for your continued support for Our Daily Bread.

Barb and Gary Tompkins

Our Daily Bread Co-Coordinator

### Current Food Pantry Needs

Our Daily Bread currently needs **soup, graham crackers and saltines**. We are not able to get any of these items from the Food Bank of Central New York right now. Monetary donations are also always appreciated. Donations can be dropped off at Our Daily Bread, 37 W. Main St. (in Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Norwich) Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

# OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 1:00 p.m. Piecmakers, Kitchen 1:00pm Worship Meeting, Zoom 4:00pm Soup Kitchen, St. Bart's 7:00pm Executive Council Meeting, Chapel	2 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Nave	3	4	5
6 <b>World Communion Sunday</b> 9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship/ Communion <i>Neighbors in Need Offering</i> Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Hour 12:30pm Youth Group	7 10:00am Knitting Group, Kitchen 2:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Rm. 6:00pm AED Training, Founders Rm. See p. 7. 7:00pm Monday Evening Musical Club concert, Nave See p. 8	8 1:00 p.m. Piecmakers, Kitchen 4:00pm Soup Kitchen, St. Bart's 5:00pm Pride Alliance Meeting, Founders Rm.	9 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Nave 	10 1:00pm Worship Meeting, Chapel 1:00pm Piecmakers Monthly Meeting, Founders Rm.	11	12 
13 9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Hour 12:30pm Youth Group	14 <b>Indigenous People's Day</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i> 2:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Rm.	15 1:00pm Piecmakers Circle, Kitchen 4:00pm Soup Kitchen, St. Bart's	16 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 4:00pm Laundry Love, Byrne Dairy 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Nave	17 5:30pm Free Meal at Emmanuel Episcopal 6:00pm Helping Hands, YMCA	18	19
20 9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Hour 12:30pm Youth Group	21 10:00am Knitting Group, Kitchen 2:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Rm.	22 1:00pm Piecmakers Circle, Kitchen 4:00pm Soup Kitchen, St. Bart's	23 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Nave	24	25 	26
27 9:00am Nursery 10:00am Worship Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:00am Budget Information Meeting, Founders Rm. 12:30pm Youth Group 3:00pm Cantata Rehearsal, Nave See p. 5.	28 2:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Rm. 	29 1:00pm Piecmakers Circle, Kitchen 4:00pm Soup Kitchen, St. Bart's	30 10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Nave	31 Halloween 		



## CHENANGO HEALTH NETWORK

19 Eaton Ave., Norwich, NY 13815

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

### Community Health & Wellness Programs

**Cancer Support Group** - A group of individuals with common experiences or concerns who provide each other with encouragement, comfort, and advice.

**The Pulse Coalition** - Preventing use, loss and stigma with education: The mission of the Coalition is to reduce youth substance use and promote a safe and healthy environment for community youth to thrive.

**Community Health Advocate Program** - Community Health Advocates assist individuals with a wide range of health related issues from finding a health care provider to understanding medical bills.

**Community Health Worker** - A Community Health Worker provides supportive services with a client centered, trauma informed, harm reduction approach to individuals and families to obtain basic needs.

**Cancer Financial Assistance Program** - Assists individuals with a cancer diagnosis pay for treatment and/or other needs related to their diagnosis.

**Prescription Assistance** - Assists individuals with obtaining prescriptions needed to maintain their health and wellness. Long term and one time assistance available.

**Health Insurance Navigator Assistance Program** - Trained Navigators assist individuals to apply for health insurance through the New York State of Health Insurance Marketplace.

**Community Tools Training** - PAX Tools Community Workshops is for parents, caregivers, and other caring adults to provide support in their own community. PAX Tools extends nurturing environments beyond the classroom, empowering adults throughout the community to improve young people's behavior and relationships with the use of Evidence-based Kernels.

**Mental Health First Aid Trainings** - A public education program that introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems. The program builds understanding of the importance of early detection and intervention.

**Systems of Care Initiative** - A collaborative group of service providers who are striving to identify and address gaps in mental health and substance misuse disorder services in Chenango & Delaware Counties. The ultimate goal of the SOC is to ensure ease of access, wrap around services and self direction for individuals.

**CALL US TODAY:  
607-337-4128**

**ALL SERVICES ARE FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

# Prayer Concerns

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, Lebanon

## OUR PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO:

David Burch and his family for the loss of David's father, **Homer Burch** who died on September 23, 2024.



**OCTOBER**

**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

3	Leona Tyler	Terri & Jason Yantz 10/09/2004
6	Pat Evans	Cheri & Kevin Oakley 10/12/2019
	William Kolb	Steve & Melissa Emmons 10/15/2016
8	Shea Breese	
9	Josiah Tyler	
10	Kyle Conant	
11	Carol Nassar	
12	Destinie Smith	
16	Tim Burgher	
	Justin Posner	
20	Debra Phelps	
	Mya Yantz	
21	Jennifer Mallozzi	
26	David Hall	
30	Jill Mallozzi	

M E N T A L H E A L T H J U S T I C E F O R A L L

# Mental health is a Universal Human Right

*"God will not falter or lose heart until  
justice prevails throughout the earth."*

(Isaiah 42:4)



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
NEIGHBORS IN NEED 2024  
[ucc.org/nin](http://ucc.org/nin)

Offering Taken on World Communion Sunday - October 6

Two horizontal lines with a vertical tick mark in the center, serving as a placeholder for a signature or name.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

11 West Main Street  
Norwich, NY 13815-1612

