



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



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



An Open and Affirming Church

December 8, 2024

10:00 a.m

Second Sunday of Advent - Peace

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

**CEREMONY OF THE ADVENT CANDLES
Second Sunday of Advent – Peace**

CANTICLE

Adapted from A Morning Star Will Rise by Joseph Martin

People, search the eastern sky.
Soon a Morning Star will rise.
God is sending us a sign.
Soon a Morning Star will rise.
God will fill the earth with wonder.
Peace will rule in ev'ry heart.
Love will shake the world like thunder.
We are praying for the Morning Star.

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE OF ADVENT

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of all time, as we gather to seek guidance for our lives, we pray that you might send your peace as we begin a new year in the life of your church. Let us embrace the opportunities to embrace peace, anticipating the light you send us in your son, Jesus, as we sing and pray the good news of the Messiah's coming. In his name we pray. Amen.

CANTICLE

Adapted from *A Morning Star Will Rise* Joseph Martin

***OPENING HYMN** *Now Bless the God of Israel* #110

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Ericka Tyler

SPECIAL MUSIC

O Come, O Come Emmanuel with O Come, Divine Messiah
Arranged by Stephen DeCesare

Duet: Averie Fink, trumpet; Liam Hunter, horn

PASSING OF THE 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.

SUNG RESPONSE *Bind Us Together* Insert

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

TIME OF SHARING

SERMON *Investing in Peace* Rev. James K. Boodley

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:21 Pew Bible NT p. 6

²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

INTERLUDE

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O generous God, we come before you with our tithes and offerings for it is from your hand of bounty we repeatedly receive your blessings. Through these gifts, remind us to always reach out to those in need and to make us your covenant partners in peace once again. In Jesus' name we pray. 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**

Comfort, Comfort My People

#101

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WIFI IS AVAILABLE

Network Name: UCC-Guest

Password: uccguest

NURSERY is available for children up to age 5, upstairs at the front of the church.

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING to vote on the 2025 Budget will be held next Sunday, December 15 in the Nave following the worship service. All members are encouraged to attend. Questions can be directed to Pete Williams, Moderator.

CANTATA! NEXT WEEK! Singers from area churches and the Norwich community will join together on Sunday **December 15, at 4:00 p.m.** to perform *The Star Arising: A Cantata For Christmas*. The program will be directed by Mary Mayo Williams and accompanied by David Burch. According to the composer Joseph Martin, the cantata is a “celebration of light and joy, filled with beloved carol tunes and original seasonal selections, set in a traditional style.” The program is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit the UCC Christmas Fund.

BRING IN NEW MITTENS, HATS AND SCARVES for the Mitten Tree in the Founders Room. After Christmas these items are donated to the Perry Browne School.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE - December 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Broad St. United Methodist Church. For many people, the approaching Christmas holiday doesn't bring with it joy and happiness. This service is intended to provide a sacred reflective and safe gathering time and space for people to grieve, yet will focus on the message of comfort and hope that God offers to all of us during difficult times. Everyone within the community is welcome to join us for a quiet spiritual time in the midst of this busy season.

A REMINDER FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY - You may have noticed on the pledge cards this year that offering envelopes are no longer available. If you would still like to use envelopes, feel free to use any envelope to put your donation in. Just include a note on the envelope or the memo line of your check.

FUNDRAISER FOR THE PLACE - Wreaths \$35, 6-inch red poinsettias \$15 from Pires Florist. Tickets can be purchased from Board Members (Norma Kinney) or call The Place at 607-336-9696. Pick Up is at The Place by December 20.

FREE COMMUNITY DINNER on Sunday, December 22, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. at Broad St. United Methodist Church. Layered chicken, maple carrots, rice, bread & butter, pupkin bar with cream cheese frosting. Everyone is welcome!

COMMUNITY ADVENT STUDY CONTINUES THIS WEEK.

What: *Prepare the Way for the Lord: Advent and the Message of John the Baptist*

When: Tuesdays Dec. 10, 17

Lite Lunch & Fellowship: 11:30 a.m.

Lenten Study: Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Where: Broad St. United Methodist Church
(74 N. Broad St. Norwich)

For more information, call Broad St. UMC at 607-334-8815.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION SERVICE

- December 24. Special extended Prelude will start at 4:45 p.m. Service starts at 5:00 p.m. Children welcome - nursery available.

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER on a Sunday, please don't take any risks to get to church. You can always tune in to the livestream www.uccnorwichny.org/livestream. If we cancel the service, we will post on Facebook and Instagram and with a message on the church phone.

CALENDAR

The Chenango Muslim Community meets upstairs daily at 9:30 p.m. & Fridays at 1:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

- 9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave - Sunday School grades 3-8, upstairs after Children's Moment
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 12:30 p.m. *Free 2B Me* Youth Group, upstairs (Grades 5-12)
- 3:00 p.m. Rehearsal for the Christmas Cantata

MONDAY DECEMBER 9

- 9:30 a.m. AARP tax Training, Founders Room
- 2:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders Room

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 11:30 a.m. *Prepare the Way for the Lord* - Community Advent Book Study at Broad St. United Methodist. Light lunch included.
- 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Kitchen
- 4:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen, St. Bart's Parish Center
- 5:00 p.m. Pride Alliance Meeting, Founders Room

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 9:00 a.m. AARP tax Training, Founders Room
- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 12:00 p.m. Piecemakers Monthly Meeting, Founders Room, Kitchen

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 10:00 a.m. Cantata Dess Rehearsal, Nave

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave - Sunday School grades 3-8, upstairs after Children's Moment
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 4:00 p.m. Christmas Cantata performance, Nave.

December 8, 2024



Link to Online Giving
www.uccnorwichny.org/give

PARTICIPANTS TODAY

Ministers: All the People

Pastor: Rev. James K. Boodley

Liturgist:

Advent Readers: The Kolb Family

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Organist: David Burch

Director of Children's and Youth Ministries: Ericka Tyler

Livestream Director: Jennifer Mallozzi

Livestream Staff: Chris McSweeney, Jessica Strough, Liam Hunter

Sunday Sexton: Mya Yantz

Nursery: Fiora Breese

Coffee Hour:

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

11 West Main St., Norwich NY 13815

607-334-3434 - office@uccnorwichny.org - www.uccnorwichny.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Tuesday-Thursday

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

Friday

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



1 Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, who comes in love and power,
 2 Re - mem-ber-ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from fear,
 3 In ten - der mer-cy, God will send the day - spring from on high,

who rais - es from the roy - al house de - liv - erance in this hour.
 that we might serve in hol - i - ness and peace from year to year;
 our ris - ing sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh.

Through ho - ly proph-ets God has sworn to free us from a - larm,
 And you, my child, shall go be - fore to preach, to proph-e - sy,
 God comes to guide our way to peace, that death shall reign no more.

to save us from the heav-y hand of all who wish us harm.
 that all may know the ten - der love, the grace of God most high.
 Sing prais-es to the Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!

This text by United Church of Christ clergywoman Ruth Duck is a paraphrase of the "Benedictus," which is often sung at morning prayer. She came to appreciate daily prayer while studying at the University of Notre Dame.

Tune: FOREST GREEN C.M.D.
 Traditional English melody
 Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Bind Us Together

©1977 THANKYOU MUSIC (PRS)

Words and Music by BOB GILLMAN

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chord symbols are placed above the notes. The lyrics are: "Bind us to - geth - er Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er, bind us to - geth - er with love. We are the fa - mily of God, we are the prom - ise di - vine. We are God's cho - sen de - sire, we are the glo - rious new wine." The score ends with a double bar line and the word "Fine".

F Dm7 Gm
Bind us to - geth - er Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that

6 C7 F Bb/C F
can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,

11 Dm7 Gm C7 F Fine
bind us to - geth - er, bind us to - geth - er with love.

17 F C7 F C7 F
We are the fa - mily of God, we are the prom - ise di - vine.

25 C7 F F/C C7 F D.C. al Fine
We are God's cho - sen de - sire, we are the glo - rious new wine.

Comfort, Comfort O My People

*Isa. 40:1-8**Johannes Olearius, 1671
Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.*

1 "Com - fort, com-fort O my peo - ple, tell of peace," thus says our God;
2 For the her - ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er pla - ces plain!

Com-fort those whose hearts are shroud-ed, mourn-ing un - der sor-row's load.
Bid-ding us to make re - pen-tance since the realm of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, for Mes-si - ah's ho - ly reign.

Speak un - to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre-pare for God a way;
For God's glo - ry ev - er-more shall be known o'er all the world;

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war-fare now is o - ver.
Let the val-leys rise in meet-ing and the hills bow down in greet-ing.
And all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Written for John the Baptist's Day, June 24, this hymn clearly reflects the Isaiah text. Johannes Olearius, a Lutheran pastor, held a faculty appointment at Wittenberg University as well as church administration positions in his region.

Tune: PSALM 42 8.7.8.7.7.8.8.
(FREU DICH SEHR)
Trente quatre Pseaumes, Geneva, 1551