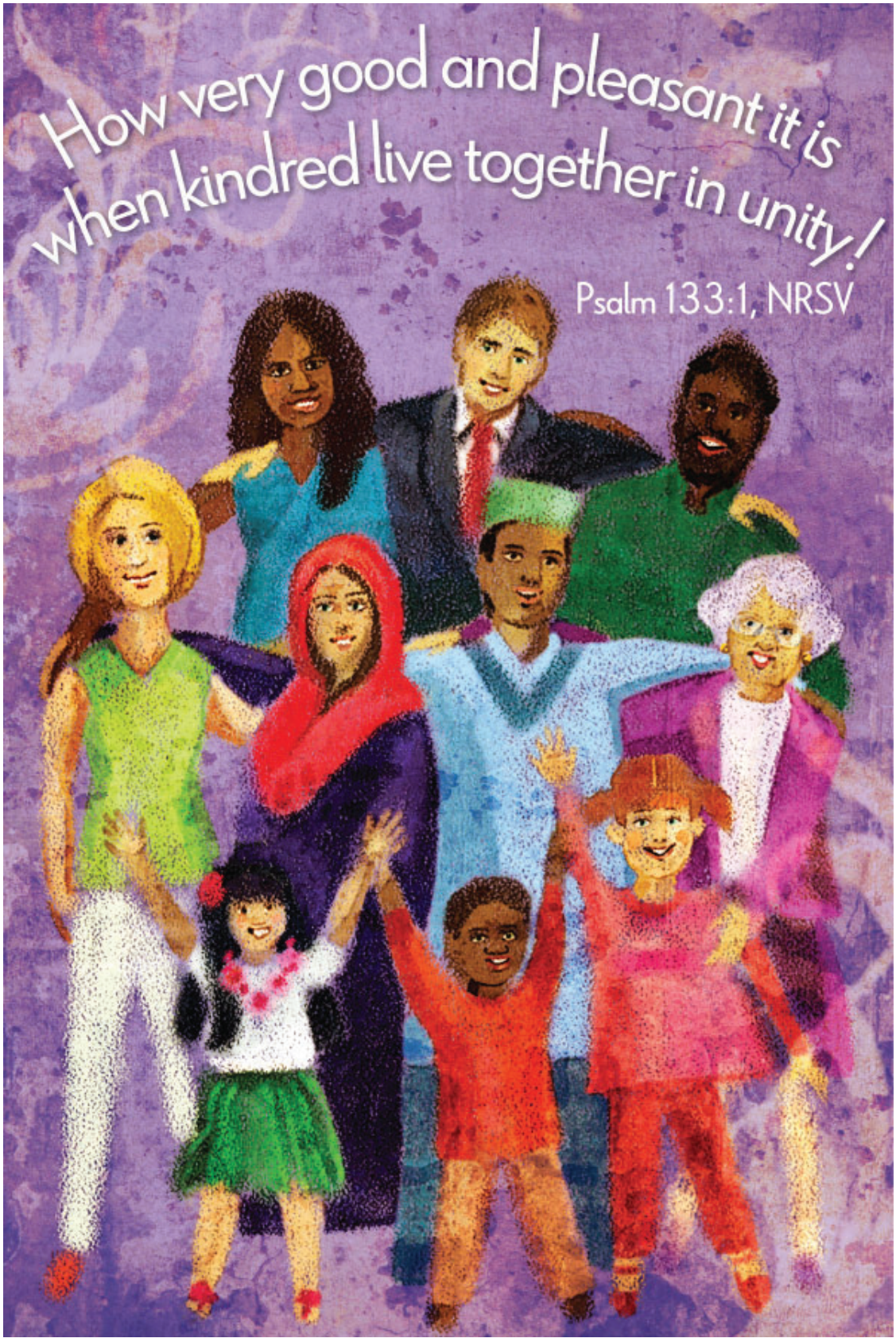

United Church of Christ
Norwich, New York

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
Norwich, New York

An Open and Affirming Church

August 16, 2026 **10:00 a.m.**

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 15, Year A
UCC Theme: Bold Moves

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME
(Please sign the attendance pad found in the pew.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let us take a moment for quiet meditation and prayer as we prepare ourselves to worship the living God as we listen to the musical prelude.

Reflection: What would the world be like if Christians believed in a humble God? Would it lead them to abandon their opinions, prejudices and judgments so they could be more open to love others where they are, like God does? (Ilia Delio, The Humility of God)

PRELUDE *I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord* by Robert Lau

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP
ONE: O Jesus, the Christ, your care knows no boundaries.
ALL: Strengthen us to trust in your mercy,
ONE: Remove the shame and fear that separates us from you
ALL: Let us make known to others that in you anyone can find freedom.

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

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

PRAYER IN UNISON
Almighty and most merciful God, each day is full of possibilities for healing and reconciliation, for change and growth. Unite our hearts and minds with your will, so that your abundant anointing can flow through us to strengthen the lives of those in need. This we ask through Jesus, your Son, our Savior. Amen

***OPENING HYMN** *My Shepherd is the Living God* #247

TIME OF SHARING

PASSING OF THE PEACE
ONE: May the peace of our Lord be with you.
ALL: And also with you.

Please take a moment to greet those around you with the passing of the peace followed by a sung response.

SUNG RESPONSE *Bind us Together* Insert

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE Psalm 133 (Psalms for Praying by Nan Merrill)

ONE: Behold! How good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell in unity!
ALL: It is like vistas seen from atop a mountain one has climbed.
ONE: It is like the stillness of a sunset after a long day's work.
ALL: It is like a shimmering rainbow breaking through a summer rain.
ONE: When women and men dwell in harmony, the star of Truth appears!

SPECIAL MUSIC *See How a Flower Blossoms* by Ben Moore
Destinie Smith, vocalist

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 15:21-28

[21]Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and
Sidon. [22]Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out
and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my
daughter is tormented by a demon.” [23]But he did not answer her
at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her
away, for she keeps shouting after us.” [24]He answered, “I was sent
only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” [25]But she came and
knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” [26]He answered, “It is
not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” [27]She
said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from
their masters’ table.” [28]Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great
is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter
was healed instantly.

SERMON

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

INTERLUDE *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

by John Turner

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Offering plates are located at the doors of the church.
Give online at uccnorwichny.org/give

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, thank you for welcoming us into your family. We pray that you would accept the gifts we offer to you, a way of saying thank you for all that you have done for us. We pray you would guide your church in the use of the gifts so that others in our world may know of your concern and provision. This we pray in the name of Jesus, your Son, and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS/CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

CLOSING HYMN *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* #23

BENEDICTION
Go now, go in safety, for you cannot go where God is not present.
Go in love, for love alone endures.
Go with purpose and God will honor your dedication.
and go in peace, for it is a gift of God to those whose hearts and minds are in Christ Jesus.

POSTLUDE *All Glory, Laud and Honor* by Larry Schackley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WIFI IS AVAILABLE
Network Name: UCC-Guest Password: uccguest

NURSERY IS AVAILABLE upstairs for children up to age 7. There is no supervision for older children upstairs in the summer. We are happy to have children of any age stay in the Nave throughout the service. Coloring books, game books and other age appropriate activities are available at the back of the Nave for your use.

THE SOUTH NEW BERLIN FIRE DEPARTMENT and emergency squad are having a Backpack Giveaway day for those in need on Friday, August 28. Donations to help with filling backpacks and providing fun activities at the event are appreciated. An offering plate is at the back of the Nave. Donations will be matched by our church. For details, talk to Deb Phelps (607-316-8828).

COFFEE & CONVERSATION on Thursdays is on hold for the month of August. We will resume meeting in September.

FREE TICKETS TO NYS FAIR AVAILABLE FOR AUGUST 28.
Contact Cheri in the church office for details.

FREE BAG LUNCH, MONDAYS IN JULY AND AUGUST - 11:00 a.m. at the Broad St. United Methodist Church.

FREE HOT DOG LUNCH, TUESDAYS IN JULY AND AUGUST - 11:30 a.m. at Emmanuel Episcopal Church.

PRAYER REQUESTS - You are encouraged to write your prayer requests on the prayer slips as you enter the Nave and leave them in the basket provided. Pastor Glenn will receive the slips prior to the service.

NAMETAGS - Everyone is encouraged to wear a nametag on Sunday mornings. If your nametag needs updating, you can leave it in the box on the table, or in the church office.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16
9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Ice Cream Social

MONDAY, AUGUST 17
11:00 a.m. Free Bag Lunch, Broad St. United Methodist Church
12:00 p.m. Tutoring, Kitchen
2:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders Rm.
5:00 p.m. E. Hunter Lessons, upstairs

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18
1:00 p.m. Piecemakers Circle, Kitchen
1:00 p.m. Worship Team Meeting

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19
11:30 a.m. Free hot dog lunch at Emmanuel Episcopal Church
4:00 p.m. Laundry Love assistance at Byrne Dairy
6:00 p.m. Democratic Committee, Founders Rm.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20
5:00 p.m. E. Hunter Lessons, upstairs
6:00 p.m. SOAR Group, Mayflower Room

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22
9:00 a.m. Diaper Give-away at First Baptist Church,
until 11 a.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23
9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour. Bring something to share.
1:00 p.m. Chenango Change, Founders Room

August 16, 2026

Link to Online Giving
www.uccnorwichny.org/give

PARTICIPANTS TODAY
Ministers: All the People
Pastor: Rev. Glenn Mahaffey
Organist: David Burch
Choir Director: Destinie Smith
Livestream Staff: Chris McSweeney, Jessica Strough, Liam Hunter, Breanna Rogers, Kaylee Winterrose
Sunday Sexton: Miles Yantz, Jacks Yantz
Nursery: Rosey Matthews, Delilah Spiegel
Liturgist: John Kolb
Coffee Hour: Ice Cream Social - Rose Laughlin, Jane Prime

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
11 West Main St., Norwich NY 13815
607-334-3434 - office@uccnorwichny.org - www.uccnorwichny.org

CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS
Monday-Tuesday-Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

247 My Shepherd Is the Living God

Ps. 23; John 10:11, 27–30

Composite from Thomas Sternhold, 1549, and Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Isaac Watts, London's leading Congregational minister, wrote more than 600 hymns. His paraphrase of Psalm 23 has been altered here by combining a few phrases from Thomas Sternhold, a sixteenth-century English hymnwriter who also wrote metrical psalm texts.

Tune: CONSOLATION C.M.D.
Southern Harmony, *1835*
Harm. Erik Routley, 1976
Alternate tune: CRIMOND (Each stanza above becomes two stanzas.)

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Bind Us Together

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Words and Music by BOB GILLMAN

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There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a Catholic priest. He wrote 150 hymns to correspond to the number of psalms.

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
Dutch melody
Arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906
Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA