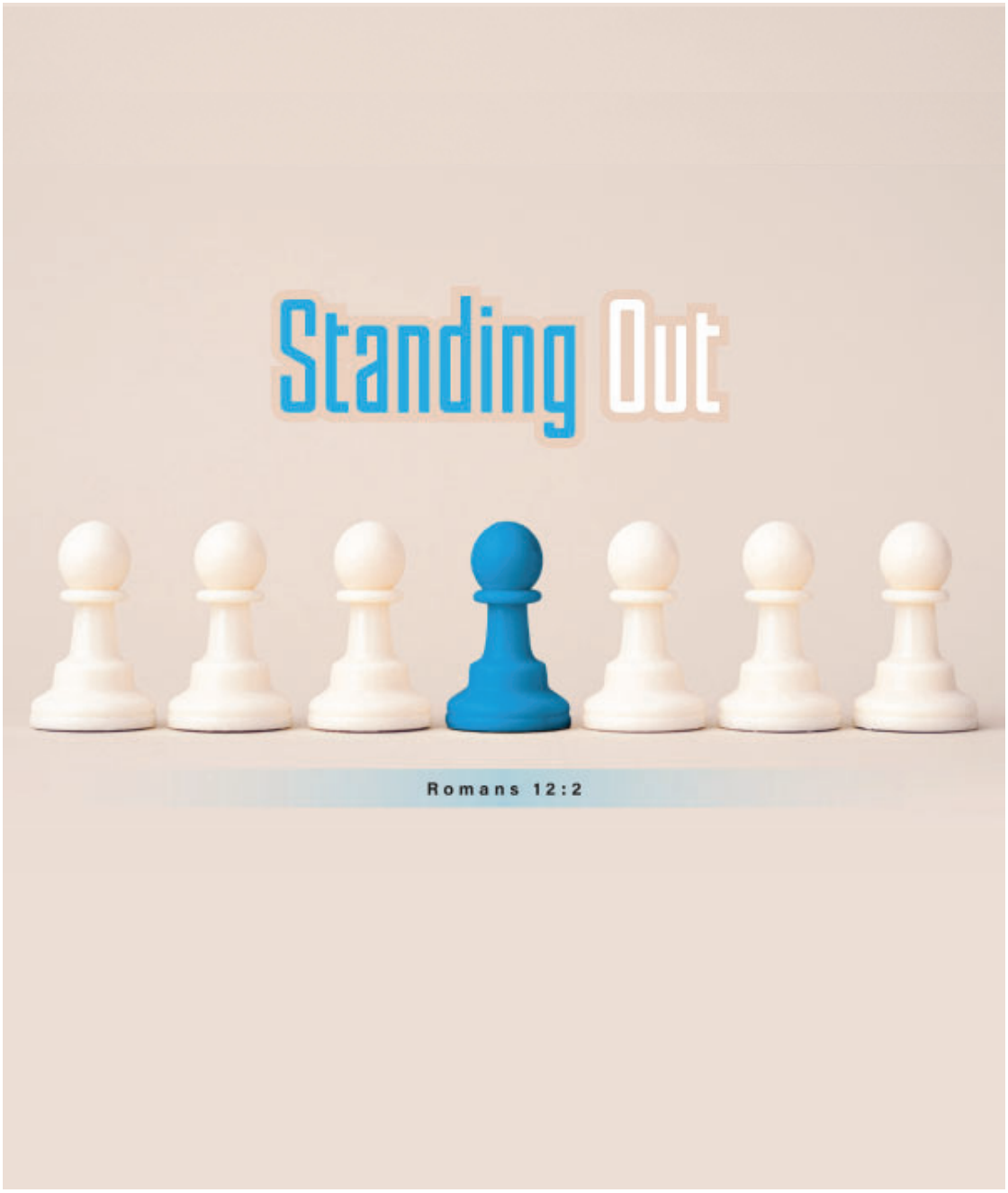


United Church of Christ
Norwich, New York

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
Norwich, New York

An Open and Affirming Church

August 23, 2026 **10:00 a.m.**

13th Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 16, Year A
UCC Theme: Be Transformed

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.

PRELUDE
Introduction and Fughetta by Christian Heinrich Rinck

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP
ONE: We come before you, O God, and wait for the kindling flame of your Holy Spirit.
ALL: You have blessed us with the night's rest,
ONE: So that by the morning's light you can show us your way.
ALL: Empower us to live in the Spirit of Jesus, the Christ, our Savior.

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

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

PRAYER IN UNISON
Ever present God, who lives within every creature in a diverse and wonder filled creation, transform us by the renewing of our minds in Christ Jesus, that we may discern and do your will in the decisions we make and the way we choose to live. Let us know what is good, acceptable and perfect in your sight, so our actions may be a faithful witness to your love, justice, and mercy. Amen

***OPENING HYMN** *Blessed Be the Tie that Binds* #393

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 Romans 12:1-8
I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. [2]Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God— what is good and acceptable and perfect.

[3] For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. [4]For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, [5]so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. [6]We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; [7]ministry,

in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; [8]the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Spirit Song by John Wimber

Michael Moren, vocalist

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' [14]And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' [15]He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' [16]Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' [17]And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. [18]And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. [19]I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' [20]Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

SERMON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE *Kneeling at the Altar* by Sabrina Bren

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** *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* #400

BENEDICTION
May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and
Be gracious unto you, may the Lord lift us his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen

POSTLUDE *All Things Bright and Beautiful* by Mark Hayes

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 CHURCH building will be powerwashed on Monday and the driveway and parking lot will be unavailable at some point during the day. You may wish to park in the Hayes Street parking lot if you need to come in to the church that day.

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 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 23
9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour.
1:00 p.m. Chenango Change, Founders Room
4:00 p.m. Free take-out meal at Broad St. United Methodist Church and Helping Hands Give-away

MONDAY, AUGUST 24
Powerwashing of the church today
11:00 a.m. Free Bag Lunch, Broad St. United Methodist Church
5:00 p.m. E. Hunter Lessons, upstairs

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25
1:00 p.m. Piecemakers Circle, Kitchen
1:00 p.m. Worship Team Meeting

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26
11:30 a.m. Free hot dog lunch at Emmanuel Episcopal Church

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27
5:00 p.m. E. Hunter Lessons, upstairs
6:00 p.m. SOAR Group, Mayflower Room

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30
9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
10:00 a.m. Worship, Nave
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour. Bring something to share.

August 23, 2026

Link to Online Giving
www.uccnorwichny.org/give

PARTICIPANTS TODAY
Ministers: All the People
Pastor: Rev. Glenn Mahaffey
Organist: David Burch
Soloist: Michael Moren
Livestream Director: Jennifer Mallozzi
Livestream Staff: Chris McSweeney, Jessica Strough, Breanna Rogers, Kaylee Winterrose
Sunday Sexton: Jacks Yantz
Nursery: Rosey Matthews, Delilah Spiegel
Liturgist: Ericka Tyler

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

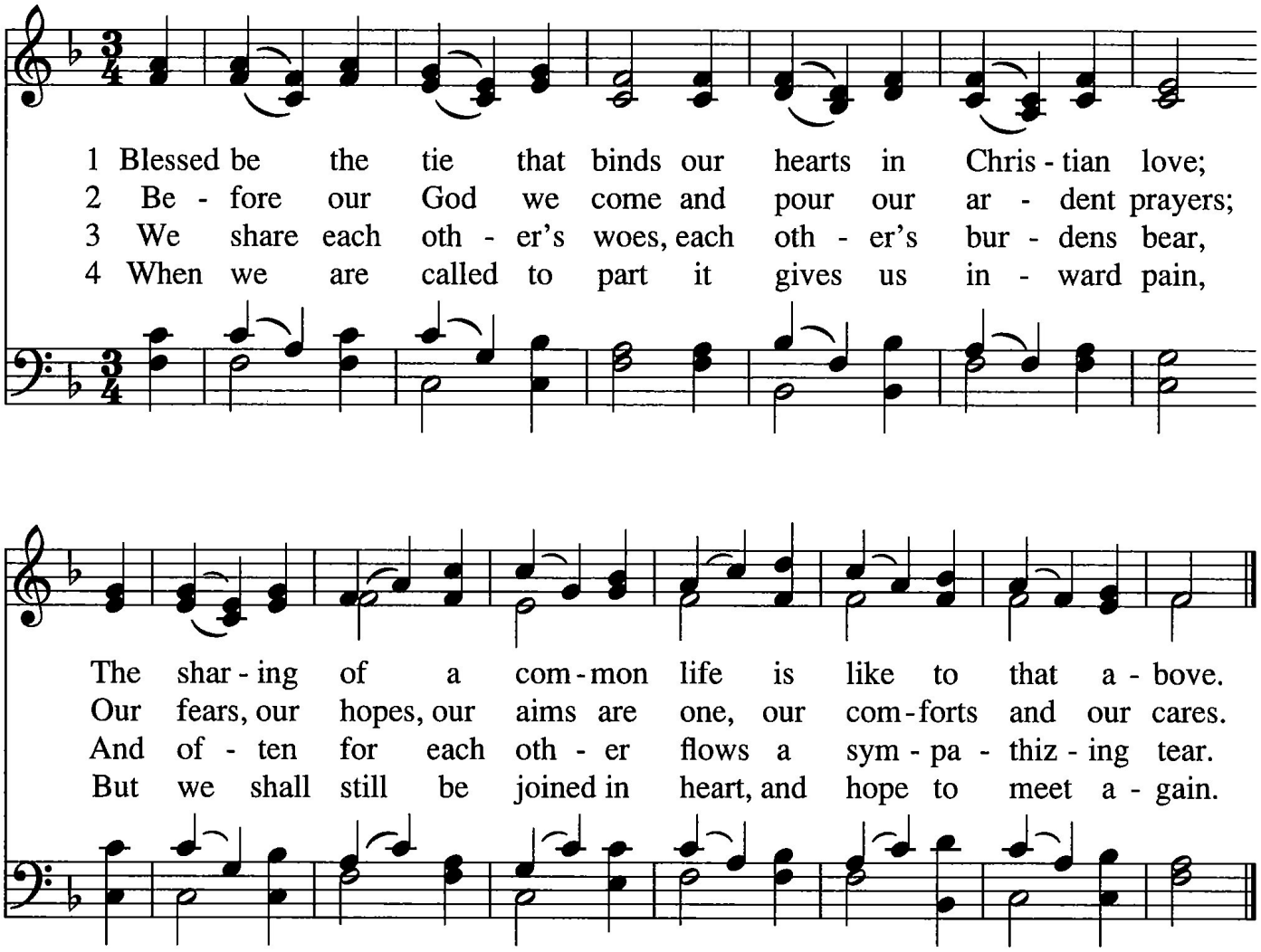
CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS
Monday-Tuesday-Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

393

John Fawcett, 1782; alt.

Gal. 3:28; 6:2; Col. 3:13–15



An English Baptist minister, John Fawcett published a number of poetic works. His entire ministry was spent at a church near Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, where he wrote most of his hymns to follow his sermons.

Tune: DENNIS S.M.
Melody by Johann G. Nägeli (c. 1768–1836)
Adapt. Lowell Mason, 1845

Bind Us Together

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Words and Music by BOB GILLMAN

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400 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Eph. 2:20–22; 1 Pet. 2:4–7

Latin, 6th–8th century
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.
St. 3 adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1992

The hymn has its origins in an early Latin poem, Urbs beata Jerusalem, *based on passages from Ephesians, 1 Peter, and Revelation. "Holy Zion" refers to the church transcendent, built of "living stones"—the saints of God.*

Tune: REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Henry T. Smart, 1867
Alternate tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY