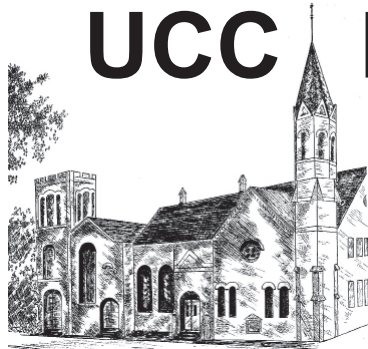


Celebrating 200 Years 1814-2014

UCC NEWS



June 2014

An Open and Affirming Church

"A fellowship in Jesus, the Christ showing God's love to all people."

A monthly publication of

United Church of Christ, First Congregational

11 West Main Street, Norwich, NY 13815

The Rev. Mr. Joseph Connolly, Pastor and Teacher

Call to the 200th Annual Meeting

**All members are invited to attend
the June Annual Meeting of the United Church of
Christ, First Congregational, Norwich, New York,
on Sunday, June 29th at 10:00 a.m. during the
worship service.**

Items of business for the June meeting include electing officers and board members. In addition, sign-up sheets will be passed around for coffee hour hosts, ushers, communion stewards, liturgists and providing altar flowers.

Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00 a.m.
Childcare Provided

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Telephone: 607-334-3434

E-mail: office@uccnorwichny.org Website: www.uccnorwichny.org

From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

My late father— a teacher— was fond of using the Latin phrase: *Repetitio est mater studiorum*. It means: “repetition is the mother of learning.”

And I had a friend who was deeply involved in the direct mail industry. She maintained a standard of the direct mail business was the idea that a person *did not even notice* they had received a piece of direct mail until exactly same piece of direct mail had been delivered at least 10 times. And then the person who got it simply noticed it had arrived in the mail box. It did not mean they read it or any paid attention to what was said.

Well, given that, even though most of you have already received a letter with our Summer/200th Anniversary schedule, it seems to me I need to emphasize what we will be doing for the next several months. So, I shall do that once again with this letter. As you are probably aware, the **First Baptist Church** is also 200 years old this summer. Therefore, do note: some of these activities will involve the First Baptist Church and other churches.

Last, we’ve added two events since my letter was sent out. Can you spot them?

06/01 - Intergenerational Sunday - Linda Oehme Leads
Worship

06/08 - Music Sunday
AND Pentecost Sunday
AND a Baptism
AND Confirmation Sunday

06/15- Union Service, **West Park at 10:30 a.m.** with the Baptists

celebrating together these 200th years.

AND the service will be followed by a picnic.

Hot dogs and Hamburgers provided

Bring a dish or a dessert to pass.

Bring a chair in which to sit.

Note: the Methodists will join us.

06/22 -200th Anniversary Service at 10:00 a.m.

The Rev. David Gaewski, NY Conference Minister
will share the Word

AND 200th Anniversary Concert at 4:00 p.m.

AND a 200th Anniversary Dinner following.

06/29 - Service at 10:00 a.m. - Annual Organizational Meeting

AND Communion Sunday

AND a Ceremony of *Shalom* for Cathy Hammons

AND we honor members in long standing

AND Breakfast for Men at **8:30 a.m.**

07/06 - Worship 10:00 a.m. South Broad Street Park

(across from McDonald's)

07/13 - Communion Sunday

07/19 - **Water from the Well III** - Lloyd Larson, guest speaker

07/20 - **Water from the Well** Service of Worship at 10:00 a.m.

- **With** First Baptist Church joining us

07/26 - First Baptist Church 200th Celebration Weekend

Concert at 4:00 p.m. – The Pathfinder Village Ringers

Dinner at 5:00 p.m. – Rev. Jim Kelsey, speaker

07/27 - U.C.C. Worships at **First Baptist Church** at 10:00 a.m.

Pastor **Scott Kavanagh** Shares the Word

07/27-31 - Ecumenical VBS at Broad St. United Methodist

08/03 - Union Worship at **U.C.C.** (10:00 a.m.) with Communion

Pastor David Spiegel (First Baptist) Shares the Word

AND an Ice Cream Social

08/10 - Union Worship at **First Baptist Church** at 10:00 a.m.

Pastor David & Pastor Joe Share the Word together.

08/17 - **Dixieland Jazz Service** at U.C.C. at 10:00 a.m.

w/ Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans

08/24 - Union Worship at **First Baptist Church** at 10:00

Pastor Joe Shares the Word.

09/27 - U.C.C. Norwich Hosts Fall Meeting

Susquehanna Assn.

10/19 - **Al Fedak** Organ Recital at 3:00 p.m.

Well, that's quite a list, is it not? I do need to emphasize that you are invited to make as many of these celebration events as you can. After all, you know the old saying: what would happen if someone threw a party and nobody came? The short answer is: it would not be a party.

But more to the point, while these are celebration events, the

purpose of these events is not the events themselves. The purpose of these events is to celebrate **you**. **You** are the guest of honor at each and every event!!

How is that? You see, the church is not an institution. The church is people. The church is **you**. Without **you**, there is no church.

And as to your presence with us, you know what I often say. "See you in church!!"

In Faith,



Joe Connolly

P.S. The 2 additions? The Baptism was not on the earlier list (although it was on the schedule). And on 8/3 after the service there is an Ice Cream Social.

It Isn't The Church It's You

by R. R. Newberry as in *The Christian Herald*

It isn't the preacher's flowery prayer
 Or the way the choir sings,
 Or the size of the coin your neighbor gives,
 Or the help your brother brings.
 It isn't the size of your favorite church,
 Or the cost of your favorite pew,
 Or the style of the clothes the members wear;
 For it isn't the church – it's you.

For a chain's as strong as the weakest link,
 And it breaks with a heavy load,
 But a church that's full of the links that pull
 Can level the roughest road.
 If you can get in tune with our God's own will,
 With your heart and your labors too,
 You will love your church though it has its faults
 For it isn't the church – it's you.

Meet Your Neighbor: Gary Gray

by Elizabeth Barber-Breese

Gary Gray often finds himself at the right place at the right time. 1961 was just the right time to enter a new field that would forever change the way businesses operate— computers, specifically, data processing. In that year, Gary was seeking employment at NBT bank as a loan officer. However, an aptitude test revealed that he would be perfect for the new computer department. And thus began a long, continuously evolving career. The first computer that Gary worked with took up an entire room, and yet, it only had 4000 bytes of storage, a paltry amount compared to the 350 gigabytes (375,809,638,400 bytes) in today's standard laptop. As the bank kept progressing, requiring more storage, the computer systems evolved. Eventually, NBT partnered with IBM, the industry giant of the day, to maximize the available technology. Gary kept right on top of every development, constantly updating his skills and knowledge.

Now in retirement, Gary still considers computer work, such as installing software, enjoyable. His philosophy about technology is practical— for him it is a tool not a substitute for interacting with others or enjoying the outdoors. For those who have become accustomed to the prevalence of computers in everyday life, it is difficult to imagine a time when computers were new. Even Gary seems amazed at the evolution, noting that we ask “computers to do things that we never thought we would.”

Computers were not the only thing that NBT introduced to Gary. “It doesn't sound very exciting,” he says of a safe deposit box conference in Utica, but that conference would prove to be life changing. It was here that Gary met Vicki, a girl from the Earlville area, about 35 miles away from his hometown of Sidney. They were drawn to one another, asking their respective companions, “Who is that?” Finally, Vicki offered Gary her cocktail ticket for a Manhattan and that “clinched it.” The couple was married in Hamilton in 1966.

As it turned out, getting a Methodist (Vicki) and a Baptist (Gary) together involved some compromise. In order for Vicki to join Gary's Baptist church in Sidney, she would have to undergo a full immersion baptism, and she would have no part

of it. The couple was now living in Norwich, NY anyway, and for NBT employees, attending the UCC church was “just the thing to do.” Once he began attending the church, Gary was won over by the friendliness of the people.

In 1970, the Grays began their family. Doctors had told the couple that they couldn’t have children, so they adopted an infant son. (In an interesting twist, the couple later learned that the man who had introduced them at the bank conference in Utica was the same man who had been a foster parent to little Jeff.) Jeff was an easy baby, sleeping so soundly that the new mother often woke in the middle of the night to check on him because he *wasn’t* crying. As circumstance would have it, it wasn’t long before Vicki was pregnant with the couple’s second child. Gary well remembers the challenges and joys of raising two boys so close in age. Some of his fondest memories are of summers in Norwich and vacations to Limekiln Lake near Old Forge where the family rented a cabin and spent time fishing and swimming.

The family became very involved with the UCC. As children, the boys attended the Sunday school. Chris eventually worked in the church office, teaching Sally the office manager how to use the computer, and Jeff was married at the church. Gary became quite involved, too, as a member of the Deacons, moderator and treasurer. He also served on two search committees to find new pastors. For Gary, it has been interesting to see the inner workings of the church.

In the mid-1990s, NBT began to outsource its data processing to Chicago. Since Gary knew the bank and the computer systems so well, he was kept on as a liaison. Instead of hands-on work with computers, he helped others problem solve over the phone. As he moved further from physically working with computers, he moved further from what he enjoyed doing. It became the right time to retire. In his retirement, he has turned his energy to the community, volunteering at the Norwich Car Museum, the Food Pantry, and Hospice. He’s glad that he is able to give back to the community in a variety of ways.

It is fortunate that circumstances conspired to bring the Grays to the UCC. These circumstances have turned in to deep commitments to family, congregation, and community.

From the Deacons

By Linda Oehme

Update on the 200th Anniversary celebration:

- On May 11th, the men of the church hosted a Women's Breakfast before church beginning at 8:30 a.m. This was our 5th anniversary celebration. Thanks to Steve Craig, Pastor Joe and Jeff Johnson for their fine efforts.
- June 15th - Worship in the Park with First Baptist. Picnic to follow.
- Keep June 22nd open on your calendars. We will have a full day celebration for our 200th. Worship will be special with The Rev. David Gaewski, NY Conference Minister, preaching. An afternoon concert will be followed by an Old Fashioned Ham and Turkey Dinner. Watch for more details. You should have received a letter from Pastor Joe regarding events in June, July and August.
- On June 29th, the women will host a men's breakfast in the Founder's Room beginning at 8:30 a.m.
- July 6th, we will have our own outdoor service followed by a barbeque at the South Broad Street Park (across from McDonald's.)
- Sign up for Birthday Coffee Hour (1st Sunday of each month) and regular coffee hours. Sign up in the hallway.
- Sign up for Liturgist, Usher, Communion Stewards, and Flowers

Stay tuned to more opportunities to celebrate this 200th milestone. If you have any ideas for fun and fellowship, please speak with Linda Oehme or any of the Deacons.

June 1st - PB&J & Crackers Sunday

Bring peanut butter, jelly and crackers for donation to Our Daily Bread Food Pantry.

June 22nd - Paper Products Sunday

Bring in paper products and personal care items for donation to Our Daily Bread Food Pantry.

Look in the Mailbox

Dear UCC Family,

I am overwhelmed with the kindness shown to me by my church family in response to my mother's death. Thank you for every prayer, hug, card and gift. I feel unmoored by this loss, but your love and support have been an anchor. Thank you.

Elizabeth Barber-Breese

Dear Friends of Hospice,

Thank you so much for your donation to our Spring Plant sale. We are privileged to be able to provide quality end of life care to the residents of Chenango County. Generous donations like yours allow us to continue to be able to provide care, despite the rising costs.

Patricia Outhouse, Executive Director
Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango County

Dear UCC,

I wanted to give a sincere thank you to everyone who made it possible for the Pack & Play that was given to me and my son, Bowen. Words can't say how thankful I am. It's a big relief to me to know he's as safe as can be in the Pack & Play.

[name withheld to preserve privacy]

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your congregation's beautiful expression of love, knitting scarves for General Synod. If you were there, you'd be blessed with the sight of 14,000+ scarves that were distributed to people all over the country. There are wonderful stories now of the impact of folks explaining to others why they are wearing their rainbow scarf. You can be proud of being a part of the effort to share God's love by combating bullying.

The UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns

Dear Church Family,

The tulips at Easter were beautiful and they brought sunshine into my living room. Thank you for such a thoughtful gift to brighten up the whole week.

Betty Reed

Children and Youth Ministries

Linda L. Oehme, Director

During May, the children heard post-resurrection stories. Church School will recess for the summer and will resume on September 14, 2014. This year's participants are:

Mrs. Oehme's class

Fiora Breese
Gwendolyn Breese
Shea Breese
Joshua Miller
Melodie Posner
Several guests

Pastor Joe's Adult Classes

Elizabeth Barber-Breese
Patricia Burke
Bonnie Connolly
Darcy Gates-Brewer
Joan Griffith
Several guests

Confirmation Class

Pastor Joe Connolly
Mrs. Linda Oehme
Brooke Bonney
Morgan Hagenbuch
Corey Johnson

Nursery

led by Morgan Hagenbuch
Gwendolyn and Fiora Breese
Jay and Neil Conant
Leona Tyler
Melodie Posner
Mia Yantz
Several visitors

Children Moments in

Worship :

Brooke Bonney
Elizabeth, Gwendolyn, Fiora and
Shea Breese
Chad, Meena, Jay and Neil
Conant
Samantha and Alex Gage
Morgan Hagenbuch
Aria Maholchic
Chris and Jen Mallozzi
Ryan Johnson
Jessica and Melodie Posner
Ericka, Josiah and Leona Tyler
Mia Yantz

This year we are fortunate to have a Confirmation Class that has been meeting throughout the year. **June 8th is Confirmation Sunday.** Come and welcome these young people into our Church family.

Remember, Church School is not just for kids. There will be Sunday adult classes meeting in the Chapel and Bible Study most Wednesday evenings again in September. We're never too young or old to learn and explore our faith in new and exciting ways. This is an open invitation for anyone who would like to join us. See you in September.



Ecumenical VBS

This year our Vacation Bible School invites all children to gear up at WORKSHOP OF WONDERS: IMAGINE AND BUILD WITH GOD. Explore and experience how the ordinary

becomes extraordinary with God! The fun begins **Sunday, July 27 and ends Thursday, July 31 from 5:45 to 8:15 p.m.** at The Broad St. United Methodist Church. The adventure includes music that will wow your ears, interactive Bible fun, super science, cool crafts, hands-on mission work, delicious snacks, great games, and more.

Next planning meeting will be Mon., June 9, at 6:30 p.m.

DONATIONS NEEDED (leave in UCC church office or drop at Broad St. UMC): Sandwich size Ziplock bags, single hole punches, soft clay (Model Magic), hot glue guns and sticks, wax paper, paper plates, self adhesive magnetic strips, yellow and gold stamp pads, mustard seeds, popcorn kernels 1 bag, wipes, Mentos, lemon juice, flour (1), salt (1), 12 12-ounce empty soda bottles, 1 package of Alka Seltzer, washable green markers, 5 Gallons of Vegetable oil, 25 12 inch rulers, food coloring, baking soda, vinegar, corn starch, clear plastic cups 6oz, baby wipes, paper bowls, small plates, popsicle sticks, gummy worms, Oreos, packs of kool aid

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We will need a lot of help to make this a success! Please call the UMC church office at 334-2895 if you can help us with any of the following: Pray for VBS, Distribute publicity, Make costumes, Be there during VBS to help out in anyway; Help with registration, Provide supplies, Create decorations, Help to decorate, Help with child care, Greet participants, Provide water bottles for leaders, Set up rooms each day, Take down decorations

Thank you for helping!
Tricia Munson & Deborah Trythall, Co-Directors

Revised Common Lectionary

You may be aware that the readings used at services of worship in most Mainline Protestant churches and in Roman Catholic Churches are from the list of assigned readings known as The New Revised Common Lectionary (the lectionary having been published and revised). In our Congregational tradition, while pastors are encouraged to use the assigned readings, it's not mandatory. We will publish each Sunday's readings and some from major church feast days each month. Most assignments consist of at least a reading from the Hebrew Scriptures, i.e.: an excerpt from the Torah, the Prophets or the Writings, a Psalm, an Epistle reading and a Gospel reading. This is published in the hope that some may use these readings in their personal prayer and devotional time.

Seventh Sunday of Easter - June 1

Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

Day of Pentecost - June 8

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21
John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-3

Trinity Sunday - June 15


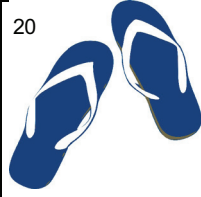

Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

Proper 7 (12) - Second Sunday after Pentecost - June 22

Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15),
16-18 Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

Proper 8 (13) - Third Sunday after Pentecost - June 29

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13
Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>June 2014</h1> 						
<p>1 8:30 a.m. Church School/Nursery 10:00 a.m. Intergenerational Service <i>PB&J Sunday</i> 11:00 a.m. Birthday Coffee Hour 3:00 p.m. Voices of Tabernacle, Sherburne UMC. See p. 23. 4:00 p.m. SAME, kitchen 6:00 p.m. M. Conant Rehearsal</p>	<p>2 3:00 p.m. The Place Teens 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 p.m. NHS Awards Ceremony 7:30 p.m. Brass Band Concert. See p. 23.</p>	<p>3 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. AA Mtg. 6:30 p.m. TNT Quilters 7:30 p.m. M. Conant Studio Recital, Nave</p>	<p>4 2:00 p.m. A. Humer, Nave/Founders' Rm. 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>5 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class</p>	<p>6 11:30 a.m. Suicide Prevention Panel, SUNY Morrisville 3:00 p.m. The Place Teens</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Pentecost 8:30 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship - Music Sunday - Confirmation <i>Strengthen the Church Offering</i> 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour</p>	<p>9 3:00 p.m. The Place Teens</p>	<p>10 6:00 p.m. AA Mtg. 6:30 p.m. TNT Quilters 6:30 p.m. Deacons Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Film Series, Founders' Rm.</p>	<p>11 10:00 a.m. Committee on Authorized Ministry, Homer 12:00 p.m. Volunter Lunch, Food Pantry 2:00 p.m. A. Humer 3:00 p.m. The Place</p>	<p>12 6:00 p.m. Piecemakers</p>	<p>13 3:00 p.m. The Place Teens</p>	<p>14 Scrabble for Literacy Fundraiser. See bulletin board for details.</p>
<p>15 10:30 a.m. Worship in West Park with First Baptist Church. Bring a chair. Picnic to follow. Bring a dish to pass. Hamburgers & hotdogs provided. 3:00 p.m. Pastor Joe shares the Word at Chenango Valley Home.</p>	<p>16 3:00 p.m. The Place Teens 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 p.m. Norwich Theater Co., Founders' Rm.</p>	<p>17 9:00 a.m. Head Start Policy Council 6:00 p.m. AA Mtg. 6:30 p.m. TNT Quilters 6:30 p.m. Norwich Theater Co., Founders' Rm.</p>	<p>18 2:00 p.m. A. Humer, Nave 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Democratic Committee 7:00 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>19 6:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group</p>		<p>21</p>
<p>22 8:30 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship - Rev. David Gaesky will share the Word. <i>Paper Products Sunday</i> 4:00 p.m. 200th Anniversary Concert 5:00 p.m. All Church Dinner</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 6:00 p.m. AA Mtg. 6:00 p.m. TNT Quilters 7:00 p.m. NHS Honors Banquet</p>	<p>25 2:00 p.m. A. Humer, Nave 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 9:00 a.m. Collate Summer Newsletter</p>	<p>28 4:00 p.m. Jason Handy recital, Nave</p>
<p>29 8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast 10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion and Annual Meeting 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour</p>	<p>30 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry</p>					



Celebrating 200

Historian Notes

by Patricia Evans, Church Historian

Early History of the United Church of Christ First Congregational Church of Norwich, NY

Chenango County Development from 1683-1800

The Province of New York was divided into 12 counties on November 1, 1683. The area we know as Chenango County today was called Albany County in 1683, Tryon in 1772, Montgomery in 1784, Herkimer and Tioga in 1791. Chenango County was developed from Herkimer and Tioga counties in March 5, 1798. The northern part was later split off to Madison County in 1806. In March of 1807 Chenango County was organized with 21 towns. Norwich was established as the county seat on March 6, 1807.

The first settlement in the town of Norwich was by Avery Power in 1788. He initially was a squatter and later paid three shillings per acre. The site of this is about a mile south of Norwich on both sides of the river. His daughter Lucy was the first child born in Norwich, and he had the first dwelling house and tavern.

There was such a steady influx of settlers that in 1790 the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and the Congregational General Association of Connecticut sent missionaries to our area. From this missionary work the Congregational Church of Colesville (originally in Chenango County), was organized in 1793 with 7 members, and The First Congregational Church of Sherburne in 1794 with 17 members. Then the Congregational Church of Lisle (also in Chenango County at the time) with 16 members in 1798. The Congregational Church of Jericho (later renamed Bainbridge) was also organized at the same time. This was the site of the first ordination in Chenango County of a Congregational minister, Reverend Mr. Joel Chapin, a 1791 graduate of Dartmouth College.

Truman Enos

Mr. Enos has been described as a remarkable man, a man of common sense. In the “History of the First One Hundred Years of the First Congregational Church, Norwich New York 1814-1914” by C.R. Johnson, he is described as “not a great leader-a masterful man,” “not that he was always right and made no mistakes-he made many mistakes” “we cannot say that he “fulfilled the law of Christ;” but he had many virtues which “covered a multitude of sins.”

Truman was born October 24, 1779, (that would make him 235 years old this October!). He was born to Abijah and Hannah Enos in Windsor, Hartford County, Connecticut. The family lived there until 1782 when they moved to Kingsboro, Fulton Co. NY. This is where Truman grew up and at age 23, married Lenda Thrall the lovely daughter of Isaac and Rhoda Thrall. It is thought that Lenda is a nick name and Philinda was her real name, a name also give to their daughter. In 1804 after 2 years of marriage the promised land of the ”Shenang Country” was calling him forth. They settled in Oxford and their daughter Philinda was born October 28, 1804. The family moved the next year to Norwich and started a tannery business. This tannery was on Canasawacta Street just north of the present “Stone Mill” on the corner of West Main Street and Canasawacta. Their residence was across the street from the tannery on West Main Street.

Mr. Enos was soon joined by a partner, Charles Randall¹. This partnership lasted only a few years when Mr. Randall sold his interest in the company to Joseph S. Fenton at the start of the War of 1812. He then enlisted with Colonel Thompson Mead as a Lieutenant.

On a faithful day of Sunday in 1811, Truman was deer hunting on West Hill. He had been unsuccessful in providing for his family and as he left the forest cover entering a clearing with a view of the west and the setting sun ”there came into

¹Charles Randall came from Stonington CT in 1798. He served in the War of 1812 at the Battle of Queenstown Heights. He was captured there and paroled. Charles returned home with the highest commendation from his commanding officers. He returned to a farm on the east side of the Chenango River. In 1819 he was made deacon in the Baptist church, a position he held for 50 years.

my mind the Bible lessons taught me by my mother” back in Connecticut; and he seemed to himself “the wickedest man on earth.” He hurriedly returned to his home and was unable for days to lose this feeling. He bought a bible and read it cover to cover. He attempted to pray but was unsuccessful. He decided he needed to talk with another Christian but in the area of several hundred people he could only think of one, a Mrs. Elizabeth Snow. They prayed and prayed for a season but to no avail. He would find peace for but a few days. He was upset to find his fellow neighbors hunting, fishing, working and visiting on Sunday the Sabbath Day. The profanity never seemed to stop. He took it upon himself to start a crusade to stop this sinning. Slowly the community improved morally and socially. Then some professors of religion came to town. They held services where they were welcome— school houses, and barns about the village.

During this period Truman was finally able to convert his partner Joseph Fenton. In the fall of 1812 Rev. Jonathan Hascall, a Baptist minister of Oneida County visited Truman at his home. Mr. Enos was able to convince Rev. Hascall to preach the following Sunday at a local tavern’s ballroom. The service was fairly well attended. After the completion of the services Mr. Hascall was hired for one year with a salary of \$300 to be paid in money and produce. Mr. Enos rode throughout the countryside and “tackled everybody Christian and infidel alike” raising the subscription money. In December 1812, Truman with Joseph Slater and Job Stafford moved Rev. Hascall and family from Oneida County to a “house north of the creek bridge on the Plymouth road.”

Truman Enos is reported to have spoken in very terse sentences. He had little “book larnin,” He spelled one of his wife’s names three different ways. Truman, as many then, had a lot of common sense. He has been described as having “unlimited energy” and “bulldog pertinacity.” But he was not egotistical or arrogant.

Mr. C.R. Johnson felt Mr. Enos was so concerned about the church formation that he was willing to do anything to build it; it was that important to him.

Truman Enos and his wife Lenda (Philinda) Thrall had a daughter Philinda who married Dr. Harvey Harris a prominent physician of Norwich. Dr. Harris was the fourth child born in

Norwich. There were three other children born to Truman and his wife, a daughter and two sons. The youngest son drowned in back of Mr. Enos's tannery at age three in 1815, just two months after the death of the child's mother (Lenda) of fever lasting seventeen days. Truman remarried in October of 1815, one Betsey Campbell. Betsey died July 1817 of consumption (tuberculosis). In October of 1817 he again remarried to Abigail ("Abby") Parmlee of Durham CT; she died forty-five years later at the age of sixty nine.

Truman, then eighty-three, waited a reasonable time and being in reasonable good health, except for being nearly blind and living with his daughter Philinda and her husband Dr. Harvey Harris, decided to take another wife. His choice was a Clarissa Marsh, sixty-one years old and a longtime Norwich resident and church member since 1853. She said yes. But he was talked out of this union by family and friends. He remained at his daughter's home for eight years, dying May 1, 1869, at the age of ninety one.

Formation of the Church

The Rev. Jonathan Haskell (Hascall) was hired in the fall of 1812 for \$300 with money raised by Truman Enos. He was a pastor for all, neither Baptist nor other religion – he was to serve all the people of the Norwich area. After Rev Haskell's arrival missionaries from the Missionary Society of Connecticut started to visit the village. Reports sent to the society by Rev. David Harrower note that on November 2, 1812, "in Norwich-by information, religion is a very low state here." He returned the next year to a great improvement. Then returned again in April 1814 with the Rev. Joel T. Benedict. They preached and talked with the people of the village.

Numerous people of Christian faith now populated the village and they were anxious for the formation of a church. A letter was sent to Rev. Benedict asking for his assistance in the organization of a church. He returned June 14. At the time of Rev. Benedict's arrival another missionary of the Missionary Society of Connecticut, a Rev. George Colton was also in town preaching. Together these two talked with some of the leading proponents for the formation of a church. They decided to start the examination of candidates the next day. On June 16, 1814 the examination of candidates was conducted by Elder

Elisha Ransom, a pastor of the Baptist Church in Plymouth, NY. There were six males and ten females presented for the examination. The exam was not completed that day and was postponed until the next Saturday. Then Saturday June 18th one male and five females were examined in addition to the others from June 16th. Five of these combined with the previous sixteen were approved for a total of 21 approved (seven males and fourteen females).

The examination of candidates was done to examine the faith of an individual. They would endure strenuous questioning about their pledge to a creed and covenant with the community and their knowledge of the bible. They also might have given public testimony of their faith. It was commonplace for candidates to be sponsored by a community member about their standing in the community.

“On the Sunday following, June 19, 1814, the twenty-one were organized as “The First Congregational Church of Norwich, N.Y.” by Rev. Joel Tyler Benedict. Articles of faith and covenant were adopted. “Elijah Chamberlain and Tracy Ensworth were chosen the first deacons, ‘for life of good behavior,’ as the custom was then.”

The new members where: Tracy & Elizabeth Ensworth; John & Ruth Ambler; Joseph & Esther Kelso; Elijah Chamberlain; Levi & Tryphena Ray; Joseph S. Fenton & his wife Sarah T. Brush; Truman Enos & his wife Lenda Trall; Prudence Dickinson (wife of Josiah Dickinson); Elizabeth Snow (wife of Abraham Snow); Bridget Wells (wife of Ephraim Wells); Hannah Snow (wife of John Randall); Adocia Smith (wife of Judge Elisha B. Smith); Phebe Brewer (wife of Mr. Brewer); Betsey Miller; and Polly Brisbee.

Most of the above named lived in the village of Norwich but several were from Great Brook, New Berlin and the Preston area. Truman Enos was the first member and he was the last of this group of twenty-one to die.

Rev. Benedict led the first service in the old wood Court House built 1809 (on the site of the present Court House). The service was attended by approximately 400 people. The service started with a sermon from Acts 4:27-28 given by Rev. John B. Hoyt (pastor of the Greene, Congregational Church 1820-1833 then pastor of the 2nd Congregational Church at Coventry 1833-1862).

Six of the twenty-one were baptized. Then the organization of the church was determined. Nineteen children were baptized. The afternoon contained preaching and administration of the Lord's Supper.

Rev. Jonathan Hascall, still ministering in the village, was very opposed to the formation of this church. He did all he could to stop its formation. The reason is not truly known but is assumed by C. R. Johnson writer of the "History of the First One Hundred Years of the First Congregational Church, Norwich, New York, 1814-1914" and "History and Manual of the First Congregational Church, Norwich, N.Y. 1879" that Rev. Hascall was opposed to it because the church was not organized as a Baptist Church. Mr. Johnson states that Rev. Hascall could not be a Congregational pastor. He also notes that Truman Enos was "first, last, and always a Congregationalist and as such he would vehemently resent any attempt to insert any other forms into the church." Truman Enos was a Connecticut native and was very supportive of church and government, both of which were Congregational. For Mr. Enos this was a matter of conscience.

In the 1800's the United States had the largest sectarian diversity of any country. New England had basically one dominant religion, as did the south. But the migration west included many different ethnic and religious individuals thus creating a melting pot. A family could buy land on the way west only to discover none of their new neighbors were of the same religion or country of origin. Many brought with them a deep belief in their chosen denomination. The creed of your chosen church was almost as binding as the Scriptures. Thus clashes were frequent between the four major denominations: Congregationalist, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Baptist.

At the time the government was attempting to create separation of church and state but the largest denomination in the community still had the upper hand in influence over legislation. The members of this church would go on to become the socially responsible, financially successful and respected members of the community.

The Reverend Jonathan Hascall's solution to his opposition of the church becoming Congregational was to become one of the first fifteen people to form the Baptist Church in August 18, 1814.

The Formation of the First Baptist Church of Norwich, NY

Reverend Jedediah Randall emigrated from Stonington, Connecticut in approximately the year 1813. His brother John had come to Norwich in 1797. He had an uncle, Charles who would later become Deacon of the First Baptist Church and held this position for 50 years.

Rev. Randall, referred to as Elder Randall, was a preacher and a successful farmer. His home was at 66 South Broad Street. He owned land from his home to the southeast all the way to the Chenango River and the Canasawacta Creek. Silas Cole, one of the early Norwich settlers, originally built his house on South Broad Street as a residence and tavern.

Elder Randall and his wife “Aunt Patty” were very prominent in the community. Elder Randall decided to help his neighbors by using the ballroom in his house for Sunday services. There were many that came, town folk and farmers from the surrounding area. They came with horse and wagon, which were stabled for free. Elder Randall officiated at these services. After completion of services, Elder Randall would then also feed his fellow worshipers. All this was done without even taking up a collection. “He emulated the example of Christ without the miracle.”

A meeting was held in his house August 13 & 18, 1814. After this he instituted “The First Baptist Church of Norwich, NY” with fifteen members. Elder Randall was engaged as the first pastor. The church and newly chosen pastor were retained without any compensation. The Reverend Jonathan Hascall, pastor hired by Truman Enos in 1812, was one of these founding members of the First Baptist Church of Norwich.

Elder Randall had a long-standing place of leadership in the church. He is described as a businessman, with integrity, sound judgment, unselfish, a very capable leader. He is also described as “not much of a preacher,” but above reproach. Under his church leadership a strong foundation was developed. “Elder Randall did not use profanity, but when he was at a loss, when preaching, what to say next, he said, ‘It appears evidently, from the principle to which we act upon, to wit: (as in at least one instance) John on the Isle of Pattimouse.’ My father was a boy then and used to sit in the gallery of the old Baptist Church, and with pencil in hand,

would make a mark on the unpainted wood of the gallery balustrade, whenever the good elder used the expression. However, what Elder Randall lacked in the quality of his sermons he made up in leadership and as a pastor, which made the church very strong.” (*From the “History of the First one Hundred Years of the First Congregational Church, Norwich, NY 1814-1914” by C. R. Johnson*)

Traveling Light

by Lynn Olcott

[Reprinted from June 2001 *UCCNews*]

..be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to God with all your heart, always and for everything giving thanks...

—Ephesians 5:19-20

The clock radio starts making noise at 5:44 and I drift awake. I have my clock set to a Christian station because I heard Marianne Williamson say once that it was not good to listen to the news before listening to God. I thought this made deep, peaceful sense and have taken her advice ever since.

The hymns help draw me from sleep and prepare me for the day. Without fail, some lyric phrase or melodic sentence will stay with me like a pale green strand of thought, twirling through my next several hours. The hymn lyrics give me a theme for the day, a refrain to replay in my mind amid the traffic on the road, the chaos in the halls, the concentration of the classroom, and the weariness of the long afternoons.

Thank you God, for music and the measures of meaning that remind me you are near. I need these reminders and I love to clasp the words to my heart as the busy day spins by. Amen.

Prayer Concerns

Let us keep in our prayers the following concerns:

- * families-those 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 persons, and all those who feel isolated and alone.

Visitors to Our Church in May

Jessie Golden, Oxford NY

Karen Mallozzi, Spring Valley, NY

Aurura and Mandie Yantz, Rochester, NY

Donna and Mark Coale, Norwich, NY

Bulletins from other Churches

Gary and Vicki Gray - St. John's Church, Fountain Square,
Larchmont, NY May 11, 2014

Joe Connolly - Ordination Service, The Park Church, May 28,
2014



Congratulations High School Graduates

Brooke Bonney

Jenni Borfitz

Corey Johnson

Briana Phelps

MID YORK SHINING BRASS BAND

“Rite of Spring”

Directed by Nicholas Natoli

Monday June 2, 7:30 p.m. in our Nave

Admission \$8.00 Students Free.

Voices of Tabernacle Concert

“Choral Standards”

Director, Anita Humer

Sunday, June 1 - 3:00 p.m.

Sherburne UMC, 11 Chapel St., Sherburne

Including S-E H.S. Chorus and “Rhapsody in Blue” Jason Handy, pianist

Admission \$8.00. Children 10 and under free.



These are the birthdays of members and friends of our church family. If you know someone on the list who's having a birthday, feel free to send that person a card. Even if you don't know anyone on the list, feel free to send any celebrant a card. More importantly, strive to hold each of these people up in prayer on the anniversary

of their birth. Please call the church office with additions or corrections (334-3434).

JUNE

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Jane Prime | 24 Elizabeth Brewer |
| 10 David Carson | 25 Ramona Oehme |
| Catherine Hammons | 26 Brooke Bonney |
| 11 Pat Bridge | Morgan Hagenbuch |
| 13 Jessica Posner | Steve Prime |
| 18 Bill Aitken | 27 June Granz |
| 22 Ruth Barnes | 28 Jack Brereton |
| Joan Phetteplace | |

UCC NEWS

United Church of Christ
First Congregational
11 West Main Street
Norwich, NY 13815-1612

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Ministers: **All the People**
Pastor and Teacher: **The Rev. Mr. Joseph Connolly**
Moderator: **Janet Johnson**
Director of Music Ministries: **Mary Williams**
Director of Youth Ministries: **Linda Oehme**
Parish Coordinator: **Cheri Willard**
Counselor, Family Counseling Ministry:
Joanne Lanfear