

UCC NEWS

November 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

The Norwich Interfaith Council Invites You to a

Community

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, November 23 at 7:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church, Norwich

Sharing the Word – Rev. David Spiegel

All Are Welcome

Canned food items and a free-will offering will be collected
for donation to area food pantries.

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

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visit our facebook page

From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

Elsewhere in this Newsletter (p. 5) you will find an article from Allan Sawyer, our Trustee for the “Enlistment” campaign. (Read the word enlistment as the person assigned to encourage people to make a pledge to the church). As is appropriate for the office Allan holds, the article goes over some figures— the dollar amounts— and the places to which those dollars are destined to go as we exercise our outreach programs.

When it comes to our “budget process,” when it comes to asking people to make a pledge to the church, what I need you to note is not the dollar amounts involved. We generously give to a number of good organizations doing great work. But in a church, to whom we give and how much we give and what a church budget looks like is not, in any way, a primary question.

A church a budget is not a collection of dollar signs. A church budget is not a document which tells a congregation how much is received and how much is spent. A church budget should be a document about justice. That begs the question: “What is justice?”

More to the point and more specifically, the deeper question a budget should strive to ask and answer is not “what is human justice?” but “what is the justice of God?” How would God see justice and how would God have *us* see justice?

Part of what makes the issue of justice problematic is, largely, we only consider human justice. Human vision sees justice solely in terms of winners and losers.

Human vision, hence, sees justice only in terms of a game, something to be won or lost. Further, most people just don’t seem to comprehend that when (quote) “justice” is demanded, the goal of human justice is the same as the ultimate answer to any game: who wins; who loses. Put the other way around, human vision turns justice *into* a game.

I would posit that God does not see justice in terms of a game— winners and losers. You see, with the justice God seeks, with perfect justice, winning and losing are immaterial.

The goal of the justice God seeks is truth, not my vision of truth or not your vision of truth, but God’s vision of truth. When real truth, God’s truth— God’s justice is sought, picking

a winner or picking a loser stops being a goal.

I would be the first to admit this is a very hard concept for most of us to grasp— that when real justice is sought determining a winner or a loser is not a goal. After all, isn't life about who wins and who losses?

Well, in the Second Inaugural Address, given just weeks before he was assassinated, Abraham Lincoln said this about the warring parties: "Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes [God's] aid against the other." In fact, Lincoln also said this: "My concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right."

Does God choose sides? Clearly that is not the claim we hear in lectionary reading from Leviticus on October 26th: "...do not show partiality to the poor *or* defer to the great..."

All that brings me back to my primary point: a church budget is not about dollars and cents. A church budget is not about balancing competing interests. A church budget should be and needs to be about justice, God's justice. A church budget should be and needs to be about being on God's side.

That presents us with another question: "How can we be on God's side?"

Stay in relationship; speak from the heart: these are holy places. These are the places to which God calls us.

Further, rather than simply pay attention to budget priorities, financial matters, we must get our hands dirty, work side by side with others as we seek the justice of God. It is when we get our hands dirty that we are empowered and enabled to tap into a sense of humility that says we, ourselves, were at one point strangers in a strange land. Getting our hands dirty means reaching out to one another in love, in trust, in humility, with sharing, with caring, with feeling.

Therefore, as Allan's letter states, among the places to which each of you has contributed by making a pledge are the United Church of Christ at the Conference level and at the National level, which empowers these bodies to engage in works of justice. Each of you has, therefore, also contributed to other agencies of justice. Head Start, the Family Support Center, Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network, The Place, School Nurses, Doctors Without Borders and Hospice— all places and people who endeavor to do the work of Justice.

This leads me to reiterate two things and add a third. First, a budget is not about dollars and cents. A budget is a document about justice. Second, the way to arrive at a just budget is through loving relationships. The added third item? Church is a place where this can happen.

So, as I often say, “see you in church”— church, a place where we seek the justice God would have us seek.

In Faith,




Joe Connolly



Daylight Savings Time Ends
Turn clocks back one hour before bed on Saturday, November 1st

Stuffing Sunday - November 2nd
Bring in boxes of stuffing to include in the Thanksgiving Boxes. (Stuffing will also be accepted any time the church office is open.)



Paper Products Sunday - November 16th
Bring in paper products and personal care items for Our Daily Bread Food Pantry.

Letter from the Christian Enlistment Committee

I can't believe it is time to start the UCC Church Christian Enlistment Campaign for 2015. Time flies, I must be having fun or getting old quicker.

Our Christian Enlistment Campaign is where we solicit financial contributions from our congregation and its members. All the funds raised with these pledges are used to fund Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), the Susquehanna Association obligations, and our Outreach Ministries. Very simply stated, your pledges provide the financial support to pay the items found in categories I and II of the Expense section of the 2015 budget. They total \$60,250.

Below is a partial list of who the church contributes money to:

Our Church's Wider Mission & Susquehanna Association
Dues (\$22,900)

Norwich & BOCES School Nurses (\$396)

Our Daily Bread Food Pantry (\$1,800)

Opportunities for Chenango

Head Start for Dental and Medical Expenses (\$1,000)

Family Support Center Emergency Services (\$750)

Family Support Center (\$2,000)

Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network (\$400)

Planned Parenthood (\$350)

Thanksgiving Basket Project (\$4,400)

The Place (\$7,000)

Doctors Without Borders (medical aid where it's most needed in 70 countries around the world) (\$1,000)

Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango County (\$750)

Christmas Baskets (\$600)

Campaign dates you should be aware of are:

Pledge Sunday is November 9, 2014.

All pledges should be received by the church by Dec. 15, 2014.

Congregational Budget vote is Sunday January 25, 2015.

Last year the total pledges received were \$45,000. Our goal is to raise about \$60,000 to cover all expenses in categories I and II in the 2015 budget. That is not realistic based on recent history. We can, however, make a sufficient improvement if we set our minds to it and make a concerted effort.

Please give careful thought in this decision and pledge as generously as you are able.

Thank you very much.

Yours in Christ,

Allan Sawyer, Chair Person
Christian Enlistment Campaign Committee



Director of Children and Youth Ministries

Linda L. Oehme

Church School has begun the third year of a 3-year cycle. All the stories in this unit are taking place in our “desert” box.

“Important things have taken place in the desert so we have to have a little piece of the desert right (here) in our room.”

These are the words right from the script that we hear each week. The adventures are endless during Children and Worship. Come and see for yourself. There is always an open and welcome invitation to all.

Remember, Church School is not just for kids. There are Sunday adult classes meeting in the Chapel and Bible Study most Wednesday evenings led by Pastor Joe. 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 on Sunday.

**Monday Evening Musical Club
invites you to their next recital
featuring**

**MEMC Members and Area Music Teachers
Monday, November 3rd at 7:30 p.m.
in our Nave**



Refreshments will follow.

Free and open to the public.

**Donations will be accepted for the
Monday Evening Musical Club Scholarship Program.**

**We Gather Together
FREE COMMUNITY
THANKSGIVING DINNER**

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
West Main St., Norwich

COMPLETE THANKSGIVING DINNER
served on Thanksgiving Day - November 27
at 12:00 noon

EAT IN OR TAKE OUT
Delivery available - call 334-8801.

Bring an item for the Food Pantry (not mandatory)

Help Is Needed

**Anyone who wishes to volunteer, delivering, serving, cooking,
etc., contact the Emmanuel Episcopal Church at 334-8801.**

LOOK In the Mailbox

Dear UCC,

I am the granddaughter of Rev. Roderick MacLeod, former Pastor of Norwich UCC. I was looking for more information on my grandfather and happily found your historian notes on Rev. MacLeod. I was surprised by some of the details. I did not even know that he was in Norwich, NY. My mother, Finis MacLeod Reed and my aunts have all died, so there is really no one to ask about his life. I just wanted to thank you for the very nicely done biography which I will share with my cousins.

May God send His blessings upon your church and may it continue being an “open and affirming” church that welcomes all people no matter what.

In Christ’s service,

Meredith Martin

Director of Grace United Methodist Preschool, Hanover,
PA and Children’s Choir Director at Redeemer’s UCC,
Littlestown, PA

Note: Our Historian, Pat Evans, has been in touch with Ms. Martin to exchange further information.

Dear Joe,

We Esslingers are appreciative of the 200th anniversary commemorative ornament from the United Church of Christ, First Congregational. We will especially be thinking of you as we hang the ornament on our Christmas tree each year.

We are also thankful that you included the 200th anniversary service bulletin with the beautiful photograph of the church building on the cover. In looking over the bulletin, I could sense that it must have been a great celebration. We also found the insert on the meaning of our United Church of Christ symbol and special events in our UCC history to be quite informative.

God richly bless your continued Christian ministry,
Donald C. Esslinger

Dear UCC,

Thank you for the Pack-n-Play. I am a foster parent and got a baby unexpectedly. I bought him a crib on Craig's List that turned out to be unsafe. I am so grateful to know this new little life will be safe and secure thanks to your generosity.

[name withheld to protect privacy]

Dear Rev. Joe and Cheri,

Thank you so much for again allowing us to use the church for our Service of Remembrance. We appreciate it a great deal and can't thank you enough.

Jessica Bohndorf and Staff

Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango County

Dear Joe and Bonnie,

What a treat to see you both at the park in Norwich last Saturday! [at the Blessing of the Animals] Thank you so much, Joe for the blessing on Lillie. Thank you too, Bonnie, for the photos you took.

God Bless!

Jan Mason

Dear Rev. Connolly and Congregation,





Thank you so much for your generous gift to the 2014-2015 Fund for CRCDS at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. Your support and generosity is vital to our mission and means so very much to us all. Please know the tremendous difference you make in the lives of our students and faculty as they work together preparing the next generation of church and community leaders.

We are so grateful for all the people at your church - our friends at UCC in Norwich. Thank you for your leadership. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Thomas McDade Clay

Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						1 	
2 8:30 a.m. Nursery/Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion <i>Stuffing Sunday</i> 11:00 a.m. Birthday Coffee Hour 2:00 p.m. Norwich Theater Co., Founders' Rm./Nave 2:00 p.m. Norwich Jewish Center Open House. See p. 17.	3 3:00 p.m. Place Teens 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:30 p.m. Monday Evening Musical Club Recital. See p. 7.	4 Election Day 3:00 p.m. Place Teens 6:00 p.m. AA Mtg. 6:00 p.m. Norwich Theater Co., Founders' Rm. 6:30 p.m. TNT Quilters, Kitchen	5 2:00 p.m. A. Humer, Founders' Rm./Nave 3:00 p.m. Place Teens 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir	6 12:00 p.m. Executive Council Meeting 3:00 p.m. Place Teens 6:00 p.m. Norwich Theater Co., Founders' Rm./Nave	7 3:00 p.m. Place Teens	8	
9 8:30 a.m. Nursery/Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship <i>Stewardship Sunday</i> 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 2:00 p.m. Norwich Theater Co., Nave 3:00 p.m. Pastor Joe at Chenango Valley Home	10 8:30 a.m. Head Start Training, Founders' Rm./Nursery 2:00 p.m. General Ministry Team Mtg., Homer 3:00 p.m. Place Teens	11 Veterans Day <i>Church Office Closed</i> 9:30 a.m. Sus. Clergy Mtg., Binghamton 3:00 p.m. Place Teens 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting 6:30 p.m. TNT Quilters 6:30 p.m. Deacons Mtg.	12 9:30 a.m. Committee on Authorized Ministry, Homer 2:00 p.m. A. Humer, Founders' Rm./Nave 3:00 p.m. Place Teens 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir	13 3:00 p.m. Place Teens 6:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Founders' Rm.	14 3:00 p.m. Place Teens 	15	
16 8:30 a.m. Nursery/Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Paper Products Sunday 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 4:00 p.m. SAME, Kitchen	17 3:00 p.m. Place Teens 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry	18 9:00 a.m. Head Start Policy Council 1:30 p.m. County PAC Mtg. 3:00 p.m. Place Teens 6:00 p.m. AA Mtg. 6:30 p.m. TNT Quilters	19 10:00 a.m. Norwich Interfaith Council Mtg. 2:00 p.m. A. Humer, Founders' Rm./Nave 3:00 p.m. Place Teens 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir	20 3:00 p.m. Place Teens 6:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group 7:00 p.m. Trustees Mtg.	21 12:00 p.m. Committee on Authorized Ministry, Binghamton 3:00 p.m. Place Teens	22	
23 8:30 a.m. Nursery/Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship - Blessing of Christmas Child Boxes 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 7:00 p.m. Community Thanksgiving Service, First Baptist Church. See p. 7.	24 3:00 p.m. The Place Teens Pack Thanksgiving Boxes - see p.12	25 9:00 a.m. Finish packing Thanksgiving boxes 1:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Box Pickup 3:00 p.m. Place Teens	26 7:00 p.m. Choir	27 Thanksgiving Day <i>Church Office Closed</i> 12:00 p.m. Community Meal at Emmanuel Episcopal Church. See front cover.	28 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	29	
30 8:30 a.m. Nursery/Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"> <p>Please Note: Pastor Joe and Bonnie will be away visiting family in Dallas November 25 - December 3.</p> </div>					

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Monday November 24

- 4:00 p.m. until done. (Pizza provided for dinner.)
Bagging produce and filling boxes.

Tuesday November 25

- 7:45 a.m. Trucks to pick up turkeys and rolls.
Meet at church.

- 9:30 a.m. Unload turkeys and finish filling boxes.

2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

- Greeting & paperwork
 Lift & hand out boxes or Runner
 Caller

When are you available during this time frame (2 -6 p.m.)?

(Linda will contact Tuesday afternoon volunteers to
schedule their shifts.)

**Give this Sheet to Linda Oehme or leave at the church
office.**

From the Deacons

Update on the 200th Anniversary celebration:

- On October 19th, there was an Organ Concert by Al Fedak which was open to the public.

November is filled with all kinds of ways to serve.

- On Sunday, November 23rd, we will have a blessing and send off of the **Operation Christmas Child** which is a project of Samaritan's Purse. There are boxes in the Nave hallway for your use. Fill the boxes according to the directions in the box and label it with boy/girl and the ages. Place the rubber band around it and make sure it is in church by November 23rd BEFORE the beginning of the service.
- November 24th and 25th will be our **Thanksgiving Basket** event. Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway, in the bulletin and on the previous page. Remember, Monday evening after the setup, we will have a pizza dinner and fellowship. Come and help; it really is a lot of fun!!
- 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. If you have any ideas for fun and fellowship, please speak with Linda Oehme or any of the Deacons.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD GIFT SUGGESTIONS



school supplies, toys, hygiene items, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, washcloths, T-shirts, socks, hair clips, flashlights with batteries, hats/mittens, candy, gum

Do Not Include: toy guns, knives or military figures, chocolate, food, liquids, lotions, anything breakable.

Details and more suggestions are inside the boxes.

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.

November 1, - All Saints Day

Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

November 2 - 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Micah 3:5-12; Psalm 43
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

November 9 - 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7
Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 or Amos 5:18-24
Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 or Psalm 70
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

November 16 - 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

November 23 - Reign of Christ -24th Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

November 27 - Thanksgiving Day, USA

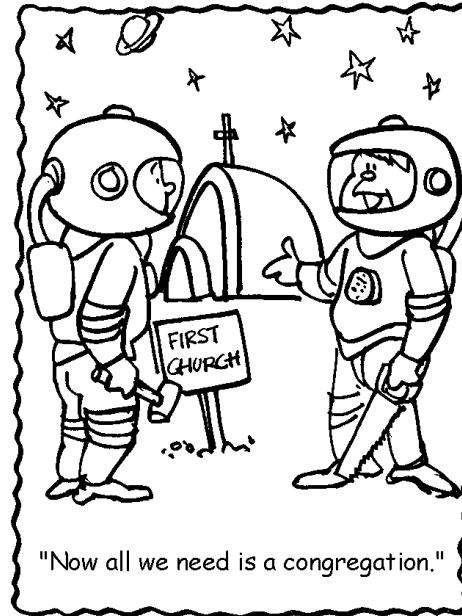
Deuteronomy 8:7-18; Psalm 65

2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 17:11-19

November 30 - First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37



Bags Needed for Thanksgiving Turkeys

Please bring in your plastic grocery bags for use when we give out turkeys at Thanksgiving. We would like to avoid the need to purchase bags. **We will need 400 bags** in order to double them to hold the weight of the turkeys. Bags can be dropped off at the church office or left in the kitchen.

Authorized Ministry

In the two millennia of the Christian Church we have found many ways and different terms to recognize the “office of ministry.” Paul, for instance, addresses “the gifts of the Spirit.” What were these gifts? They were gifts used in the church to do the work of the church — all offices of the church.

One could clearly argue the two earliest “offices” were apostles and disciples. However, it’s equally clear shortly after the resurrection event deacons were involved in church ministry. Perhaps as early as the Second Century of the Common Era we get what is today referred to as priests and bishops.

Language changes and as language changes we have different ways of naming ministers. The term “authorized minister” is coming into ordinary use in the United Church of Christ. Following this article is a chart which lists the total number of ministers in the United Church of Christ and breaks these numbers out into various categories.

By far the majority are ordained. The credentials of the ordained means they are empowered to work not just in the local church in the ministry of “Word and Sacrament” but to work in the whole church in ministry of “Word and Sacrament.”

Just like those who are ordained, those who are licensed are approved and sanctioned by a local Committee on Authorized Ministry to an office of “Word and Sacrament.” The pastors are authorized for this work in a local church but not the whole church.


A pastor with Dual Standing or an Ordained Ministerial Partner is someone ordained in a denomination other than the United Church of Christ, who still has ties with that other denomination but is currently working in and with the United Church of Christ. Hence, a local Committee on Authorized Ministry recognizes them for that work by granting Dual Standing.

Generally, local Committees on Authorized Ministry say a Commissioned Minister is someone involved with ministry in a church— ministry to the homeless, the ministry of outreach, the ministry of education. These are very significant ministries but these not the ministry of “Word and Sacrament.”

All that brings us back to what Paul said: that “the gifts of the Spirit” were gifts to be used in the church to do the work of the church. I hope you find the chart below interesting.

GENDER OF ACTIVE, NON-RETIRED AUTHORIZED MINISTERS		
	FEMALE	MALE
Ordained	3,074	3,367
Licensed	310	402
Dual Standing	99	237
Ordained Ministerial Partner	84	94
Commissioned	98	29
TOTAL	3,665	4,129

God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH
 OF CHRIST



**Open House and Centennial Celebration
at the Norwich Jewish Center
Sunday, November 2nd, 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Klezmer Presentation 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

Celebrating the Centennial of the City of Norwich, the Centennial of the Organization of the Jewish Community in Norwich and the Centennial of the former Eaton home where the Jewish Center is currently located.

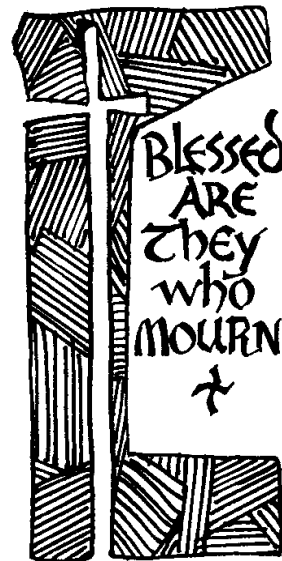
Free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

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.

Prayers and Sympathy to Steve Emmons whose grandmother, **Elsie Smith** died on September 20, 2015.



Bulletins from Other Churches

Gary and Vicki Gray, Trinity United Methodist Church,
N. Myrtle Beach, SC, September 28, 2014

Visitors to Our Church in October

Alyssa Jutting
Allison Rehn
Betty Yeahl, Breinigsville, PA

Wish These Friends a Happy Birthday

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 or <office@uccnorwichny.org>).



November

1	Michael Willard	16	Betty Brown
2	Pat Flores	18	Betty Reed
5	Bob Bartlett		Matt Maholchic
7	Jennifer Borfitz	24	Alexander Gage
11	Darcy Gates-Brewer	29	Taylor Hagenbuch
	Terry Hagenbuch		Jessica Willard

UCC NEWS

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



DATED MATERIAL: Please Deliver Promptly.
This issue mailed 10/31/2014.

STANDARD A
PERMIT 24
NORWICH NY 13815

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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