



UCC NEWS

January 2016

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

**Worship Service
with the Residents of
Chenango Valley Home
AT THEIR PLACE.**

24 Cansawacta St., Norwich

**January 17
10:00 a.m.**

Children welcome.

**Call to
202nd Annual Sunday
January 31st
during the worship
service.**

**All members are urged
to attend to vote on the
2016 budget.**

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

This month I am going to “steal” some thoughts from my Facebook friend Fr. James Martin, S.J. James is a Jesuit priest, writer, and editor-at-large of the Jesuit magazine *America*. What follows are his *New Year’s Resolutions for Absolutely Everyone* posted on his Facebook page.

- 1.) Be Kind. That means...
- 2.) Always give everyone the benefit of the doubt. After all, why not? Everyone is carrying around some sort of burden. Usually one that you don’t even know about. So give them a break. Even if they’re being unreasonable....
- 3.) Especially when you’re talking about them with someone else. Honor the absent, as the saying goes. Spiritually speaking, it’s essential. It’s part of charity. Practically speaking, it makes sense too. Why? First, because you’ll feel crummy about yourself afterwards. Second, because the person you’re complaining to will probably see you as negative. Finally, it will inevitably get back to them. More to the point, it’s mean.
- 4.) Don’t be a jerk. There is simply no need to be. At all. Zero. Just because you’re having a rotten day doesn’t mean you have to pass it along your misery to someone else. It’s important to share your struggles with friends. Essential. But being in a bad mood is no excuse to be a jerk. If you feel you’re moving into that territory, ask yourself a simple question, “Am I being a jerk?” If you’re somehow unable to discern that, the look on other people’s faces will tell you.
- 5.) Give a call, pay a visit, or send a note to someone who is sick, lonely, struggling. It will cost you nothing, but will mean everything to them. Think of how you feel when someone reaches out.
- 6.) Release yourself from that grudge. In other words, forgive. It’s ridiculous to hold onto things for so long. It eats away at you like a cancer, and it poisons the other person’s life. It also, most likely, serves to turn them against you even more. You think you are justified in being mad? You probably are. People can be jerks. But there are probably people justified in holding a grudge against you, too. So just let it go.

- 7.) Stop being so sarcastic. A little of that goes too far. You may think you're being Oscar Wilde, but you're often just being mean. Sarcasm can be an effective antidote to pomposity, but sometimes it's just cruel.
- 8.) Listen patiently to someone who is long-winded, or boring, or, especially, complaining. They're usually insecure, lonely or in pain. Your listening is a gift to them. It may mean that you're the only person they have to talk to. Yes, it's hard. But God sees what you're doing. And, after all, people have to listen to you.
- 9.) Help someone who is really needy. A homeless person. A poor person. A refugee. A sick person. A grieving person. It's not hard to figure out how to do it. And if you don't know anyone like that, write a check. That's not so hard either. Helping doesn't require an advanced degree.
- 10.) Be kind. Did I mention that? It bears repeating, because if you are kind, then you'll make a lot of people happy in the New Year. Yourself too. And God.

Thank you James!

Wow! Be kind. What a concept. And yes, I'd be the first to say, not always easy.

There is no question about this: church is— all churches are— a collective. Church is and churches are about people working together. So, kindness matters.

But church is also about the individual. No collective, especially the collective called church, functions without the input and help of each individual involved. So, kindness matters.

Put another way, church is about transformation. Each church individually and all churches collectively are about transformation. Hence, if the church is a collective, church is about collective transformation. Church is about all of us together being transformed. So, kindness matters.

All of which is to say perhaps that transformation which church is about starts with this simple idea: be kind.

See you in church.

In Faith,


Joe Connolly

Director of Children and Youth Ministries

by Linda L. Oehme

2016 has begun and we are visiting new and some familiar stories in the Children and Worship Program. We will be hearing stories of Jesus as a child and growing up which follow the Church Year C. Come and check it out.

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. Nursery continues every Sunday during worship for children in 2nd grade and younger.

From the Deacons:

Thanks to all who helped with the January 3rd Soup and Bread "Trust Luncheon" after worship. After lunch, those who were able helped undecorated the church. It was fun and we finished in record time. Thanks to all those who helped. Don't forget that January 17th, we will take our worship service over to the Chenango Valley Home to Worship with the residents. Join us there at 10:00 a.m.

Our Daily Bread Food Pantry

If the winter stays as warm as it has started, winter demand will be greater than in very cold winters. People are more able and willing to travel to the pantry in warmer weather. Any canned items are always welcome including vegetables, fruit, canned tuna and chicken, soups, spaghetti-o's, etc. Cereal, mac and cheese, pasta products, and instant mashed potatoes are also popular. During the winter months, variety packs of oatmeal are in demand. Monetary donations are always needed and accepted.

Thank you for your generosity in helping your friends and neighbors in the community.

Barb and Gary Tompkins, Volunteer Coordinator

Look in the Mailbox

Dear Joe and Bonnie,

Thank you so much for continuing to bring the word of God to our residents. They look forward to it every month.

Merry Christmas from all of us at
Chenango Valley Home

Editor's Note: One of our musicians always plays for the service at Chenango Valley Home.

Dear UCC,

On behalf of the Chenango Housing Council, please accept my sincere thanks for the donation from your church. The money will be deposited in our projects account and used for the next project sponsored by the housing council.

We are very grateful and thank you for your continued support.

Wayne Patafio
Secretary/Treasurer
Chenango Housing Council

Dear Church Members,

It is with pleasure that I acknowledge a donation to St. Paul's Church to help with the Christmas baskets for the needy. Continued generosity such as yours is very much appreciated and on behalf of the parish, I thank you.

Rev. Raph A. Bove, Pastor
Church of St. Paul

Christmas greetings were received from:

Andover Newton Theological School
The Place
Family Planning of South Central New York
Kristin Metz Miller
The Brewer Family - Darcy, Ken and Liz

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2016</h1>					1 New Year's Day	2
3 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:00 Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 11:00 a.m. Soup & Bread 11:30 a.m. Undecorate	4 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry	5 9:00 a.m. Tax Training 10:00 a.m. LVA 2:30 p.m. The Place Teens 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting 6:30 p.m. TNT Quilters	6 2:30 p.m. The Place Teens 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir	7 9:00 a.m. Tax Training 2:30 p.m. The Place Teens	8	9
10 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:15 a.m. Bell Choir	11	12 9:00 a.m. Tax Training 10:00 a.m. Literacy Volunteers 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting 6:30 p.m. TNT Quilters	13 2:30 p.m. The Place Teens 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir	14 9:00 a.m. Tax Training 11:00 a.m. Food Pantry Meeting 2:30 p.m. The Place Teens 6:00 p.m. Piecemakers	15	16
17 10:00 a.m. Worship at Chenango Valley Home. See cover. 4:00 p.m. SAME Mtg., Kitchen	18 Martin Luther King Day <i>Church Office Closed</i> 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry, Mayflower Rm. 6:00 p.m. Home Bureau, Founders' Rm. 7:00 p.m. Trustees Mtg.,	19 9:00 a.m. Head Start Policy Council 9:00 a.m. Tax Training 10:00 a.m. Literacy Volunteers 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting 6:30 p.m. TNT Quilters	20 2:30 p.m. The Place Teens 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Democratic Committee, Founders'	21 9:00 a.m. Tax Training 2:30 p.m. The Place Teens 6:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group 7:00 p.m. Executive Council Mtg., Chapel	22 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Doug's Fish Fry at OFC.	23
24 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship - The Impact Project 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:15 a.m. Bell Choir	25 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">BTS Convocation in Portland, Maine - January 25 - 27</div>	26 9:00 a.m. Tax Training 10:00 a.m. Literacy Volunteers 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting 6:00 p.m. TNT Quilters	27 2:30 p.m. The Place Teens 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	28 9:00 a.m. Tax Training 2:30 p.m. The Place Teens	29 9:00 a.m. Collate and mail newsletter.	30
31 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship - Annual Meeting 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:15 a.m. Bell Choir						



Historian Notes

by Patricia Evans, Church Historian

The Rev. Lynn G. Johnson 1965 – 1966

“Lynn came to us as an intern minister 1965 during the ministry of The Rev. Frank W Gardner. At that time he was a student in the internship program of Union Theology Seminary in New York City.

Lynn was born in Erie, Pennsylvania and his early schooling was received there. He attended college at Yale where he majored in English. During the summer of 1960, just prior to his senior year at Yale, he joined “Operation Crossroads Africa” and he taught English to African high school students in Ghana. He then studied one year of theology in the New College of Edinburgh, Scotland and continued his studies at Union Theology Seminary in New York City.

He interrupted his studies for one year in order to reach a decision on the type of ministry he would enter following graduation and came to Norwich to aid in the young people’s work and to engage himself in the general duties of Assistant Minister.

To better acquaint Lynn with our church and its members, ten neighborhood group meetings were set up in homes to meet with Lynn and to discuss our and his concerns. This enabled our church to work in a more practical manner with one who was attempting to decide on his life’s work. Lynn’s interest was in teaching as well as in ministry.

Lynn’s outreach in ecumenical and civil rights enabled our church to work more closely together along those lines, a Lynn Inc. waited we acquainted himself with our local Jewish Center and other Christian churches in Norwich.

Along civil rights activities, he transported several of our young people to Buffalo to share their concerns with the Salem Congregational church in a black community. An exchange of the young people of both churches resulted in better understanding between the two congregations.

This young man was very apt in convincing our members and other persons in Norwich of the importance of service to

others in a Lynn can be credited with the beginning and the continuation of the Day Care Center in Norwich. He considered this is his major accomplishment while serving here.

An April 30, 1967, after worship service, a meeting of special importance was held to act on the proposal from Opportunities for Chenango to hold a Child Day Care Center for Twelve months, the Government paying 90 percent of the cost and the community the remaining 10 percent. Two classes of fifteen youngsters were conducted at our church Monday through Friday throughout the year, with hot lunches being served and the value of our contribution to the program was estimated at \$4,250 a year. The Center use their facilities for over four years, when it moved to the United Methodist Church. Kindergarten teachers in Norwich complemented the work of the Day Care Centers in that the youngsters were more ready for formal education.

We are all delighted when Lynn announces engagement to Jenny Loesel also Erie Pennsylvania and their marriage in the year they were with us.

After leaving Norwich, Lynn continued his studies at Union Seminary and after graduation in 1967 he was ordained in his home church in Erie Pennsylvania, with Mr. Gardner preaching a sermon.

From 1967 to 1969 Lynn work in urban affairs of Philadelphia, first for the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority and then as Director of the community organization of South Philadelphia. Later from 1969 to 1975 he served as Associate Director of a 13 college consortium, the New Hampshire College and University Council. Before leaving New Hampshire for Michigan he was head of a statewide Kellogg Foundation project to improve planning and management activities among the public and private colleges there.

Since June 1975, Lynn and Jenny and their children, Sven, now 9, and Ingrid, now 6 – have been living in Ann Arbor Michigan, where he is completing a PhD in university administration. Lynn went to Ann Arbor with the idea of doing all the doctoral coursework in approximately a year, followed by another year to write the dissertation. He is right on schedule, but it has been a grueling schedule of work, especially when combined with a half-time job in the University of Michigan Office of Academic Planning and Analysis.

Lynn wrote (at that time) that he hoped his good friends in Norwich would not be disappointed by subsequent decision to seek work outside the church but would understand it is another form of ministry and in effective use of his particular abilities.”

History of the United Church of Christ First Congregational, Norwich, NY 1914-1976

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 and transgendered persons, and all those who feel isolated and alone.

Our Prayers and Sympathy to:

The family of **Martha Knudson** who died on December 28, 2015.

Revised Common Lectionary Readings

January 10 - First Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 17 -Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 24 - Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a;

Luke 4:14-21

January 31 - Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Cor.13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

Visitors in December

Anne Brereton, Berlin Vermont
 Grace Burke Watertown
 Carla Chase , Norwich
 Adam French, Berlin, Vermont
 Lauren Hazard
 Ellie Hunter Norwich NY
 Liam Hunter
 Miranda Hunter Norwich NY
 Candy Ingraham
 Coraline Ingraham
 Michelle Ingraham
 Naomi Ingraham
 Tessa Markham Norwich NY
 Mary Miner
 Antonia Mody
 Tom Mody Norwich NY
 Stephen Rogoff, Oxford NY
 Wendy Stanton, Oneonta NY
 Pat Wassenaar

JANUARY 2016 BIRTHDAYS

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).

2	Fiora Breese	10	Joy Barrows
	Keegan Prime	20	Briana Phelps
4	Barbara Kraft	22	Steve Emmons
5	Timothy Duke	24	Corey Johnson
7	Elizabeth Barber-Breese	31	Virginia Chaplin

UCC NEWS

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Ministers: **All the People**
Pastor and Teacher: **The Rev. Mr. Joseph Connolly**
Moderator: **Steve Craig**
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**

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