

UCC NEWS



February 2016

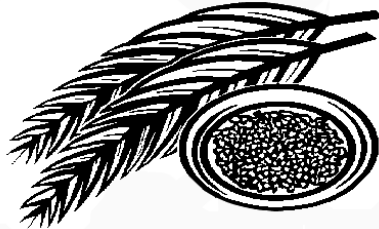
An Open and Affirming Church
"A fellowship in Jesus, the Christ showing God's love to all people."

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



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

Ash Wednesday Service
February 10th - 7:00 p.m.
at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
94 N. Broad St., Norwich



Lunchtime Bible Studies
See page 11 for details.

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,

Let me make an assumption: no one would argue with me if I said GOOGLE is a large company. In 2013 they employed 37,000 people. Stéphanie Thomson, an editor at the World Economic Forum, recently wrote about how GOOGLE maintains effective operations. This is part of what she reported.

Since it is a large company, GOOGLE has done extensive research into the skills and character traits of a good manager and a company goal is to make sure their managers are top notch. But what about the rest of the workforce? For any large organization to thrive, entire teams need to work well together to succeed.

Now, of the 37,000 people who work at GOOGLE only 6,000 of them are managers or directors. As I indicated, GOOGLE has done the research. They are confident that their 6,000 are effective. Thereby, this question arose: are the 31,000 staff members as effective as the people leading them?

Over a period of two years a group of researchers at the company analyzed more than 180 teams and interviewed hundreds of employees. Their mission? Find the recipe behind a dream team. What did effective teams look like? If you put together different skills you would get an effective team, right?

Their findings could not have been further from their initial assumptions. It turns out that the secret to a high-performing team lies less in the individuals that make it up and more in the wider team dynamics.

The report said, “Who is on a team matters less than how the team members interact, structure their work, and view their contributions.” High-performing teams, they found, almost always displayed five characteristics. These are team traits which make for effective groups.

- 1) **PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY:** Team members need to be able to take risks and feel vulnerable in front of one another.
- 2) **DEPENDABILITY:** Team members get things done in a timely fashion and in a way that members of the team agree meets expectations.

- 3) STRUCTURE AND CLARITY: Team members have clear roles, clear plans and clear goals.
- 4) MEANING: Team members agree that the work being accomplished is personally meaningful.
- 5) IMPACT: Team members think their work matters and has the potential to create change.

While I do not want to sound too corporate about this (we are a church, not a corporation) I want to suggest there is a lot to be said for these five keys. Start with the fact that the first need is for a “safe space.”

Let me use the theological term for that: trust. Unless we trust, nothing else happens.

Indeed, those of you who follow my sermons either in person or online, might accuse me of having embarked on a “sermon series.” What is the theme of that series? The theme is simple.

The messages we are getting from greater society tell us to be very, very, very afraid. The messages we are getting from greater society tell us be fearful. The message of God is: *fear not! I am with you.* Put differently the message of God can be boiled down to trust.

When applied to a community of faith the sequence of these “corporate keys” to teamwork become evident. First, trust God. Next, trust one another. (The theological term in this case would be love your neighbor.)

When you trust and love your neighbor, that means you depend on them. You depend on them to help you, to be with you in times of joy and in times of crisis.

Loving and trusting your neighbor means you are aware of roles. It means you know when to offer a helping hand, when to be patient. It means you know when your neighbor needs to just have someone willing to sit with them and be present to them. It means you offer stability— a stable place— as indicated earlier, a safe place.

Trusting and loving one another surrounds our lives with meaning. Trusting and loving one another, by definition, means your impact on the life of everyone with whom you come in contact will be significant.

Indeed, one term often used for church is “the body of Christ.” And we are one with Christ when we banish fear and

replace it with love.

One way of being the body of Christ, is to interact with one another in that place called, “the church.” So, if you want a safe place with folks on whom you can depend where people know their role (the role of loving) which can convey both meaning and impact— see you in church.

In Faith,



Joe Connolly



**The 5th Annual
SAME Expo**
(Support Art and Music Education)
Sunday, February 21
4:00pm
United Church of Christ, Norwich

An exhibit of student artwork and a musical presentation, along with a silent auction. The purpose of this event is to increase community support for Arts instruction in our schools and to gather donations to support art and music students.

Our Daily Bread Food Pantry

Our Daily Bread Food Pantry, located at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, is often in need of *Dry Breakfast Cereal*. One reason for that is this item often tends to be difficult to acquire from the usual low priced sources the Pantry uses. Therefore, any donation of *Dry Breakfast Cereal* to Our Daily Bread Food Pantry— from a box to a case— is deeply appreciated. There is a need for one other item: **Paper Products of Any Kind** from paper towels to bathroom tissue. Donations may be brought to the United Church of Christ or to Emmanuel Episcopal Church. Monetary donations to defray costs are always welcome. Thank you.

Letters

Dear Friends at UCC,

Greetings in the name of Jesus and Happy New Year 2016. We send our sincere thanks for your generous gifts to Hope House Orphanage in Ndola, Zambia, Africa for the year 2015. We are pleased to report that the ongoing efforts on behalf of the many children at Hope House Orphanage as well as the Hope Fellowship School and Hope Clinic are truly blessed by God and the lives of these little ones are being radically changed as they daily receive food, clothing, education, medical care and spiritual training.

It is now ten years since we began the awesome privilege of participating with Pastor Charles and Margaret Mumba to provide loving, Christian care to these children. It is only with your faithful partnering that we can continue to send funds that provide this care. Some of the first children we took in for care are not 18 - 20 years old. God has truly blessed these children as well as those of us who have helped make this happen.

Barbara E. Hust, President

Dear UCC,

Thank you for the generous donation of hats, sweaters and mittens [from the Mitten Tree]. We appreciate and are always in need of extra winter outerwear. Please know that through your efforts, many of our children will be warm and dry this winter. On behalf of the students, a heartfelt thank you!

Jennifer Post, Principal

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your support of Lancaster Theological Seminary! Your gifts enable Lancaster Seminary to fulfill its mission of preparing future ministers and Christian leaders for the sake of Christ's church.

Your prayer support and generosity help to open the doors for our students' education, open their minds to learning and open their hearts to serving.

Crystal Mills

Vice President, Advancement & Communications



Historian Notes

by Patricia Evans, Church Historian

The Rev. Nelson C. Munson 1967 – 1968

Nelson C. Munson was born Dec. 30, 1900 in Syracuse. He was a graduate of Colgate University, Hobart College and Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (a theological college affiliated with the American Baptist Churches USA). He was ordained by the American Baptist Convention with a specialty in interim ministry.

Rev. Munson served as an Army Chaplain for 31 months in the Army Air Corps reaching the rank of Chaplain Major. It is noted in the *History of the United Church of Christ First Congregational, Norwich, New York 1914-1976* that he was a chaplain at two bases in New Mexico, one in Arizona, two in California, then he served for two years in African Campaign (1940-1943). “While in the service, he became ill and as a litter patient, spent one and a half years in the hospital.” After retiring from service he continued his ministry with strict orders from his doctor thus starting his interim work.

Over time he became stronger and would serve at least a total of forty eight churches in at least seven states. He served in three permanent pastorates for more than 20 years. Some of the churches he served over the years were: Lynnbrook Baptist Church in Nassau, NY, Tabernacle Baptist in Utica, NY, and First Baptist, Kingston, NY

Rev. Munson came to Norwich, NY from the Plymouth Congregational Church in Syracuse and served our church for seventeen weeks in 1967 and five months during 1968. A reception was given to Mr. and Mrs. Munson at the church on Sunday evening September 24, 1967. Mr. Munson was a specialist as an “interim minister” and as a writer of religious articles for several religious papers and magazines.

“Mr. and Mrs. Munson endeared themselves to our congregation and performed many outstanding services. They planned a series of get-acquainted meetings at the parsonage for a bit of fellowship and (as he called it) brain-storming. At

Christmas-time four get-togethers in the area homes were held to study the story of Christmas taken from the book of Acts.¹ A group of over eighty participated.

Mr. Munson instigated a program which he call 'March to Church in March.' He planned extensive advertising and publicity and this was such a successful venture that it has been continued throughout the years. This same year there were twenty-five new members accepted to our church through confirmation. Mr. Munson attended all Prudential and other committee meetings and complimented our officers and committee members on the work they were doing

The pulpit committee had completed its work in searching for a 'permanent minister' and the Munsons made plans to leave Norwich. Mr. Munson preached his last service sermon on Sunday, May 26, 1968, and at a farewell gathering that same evening The Rev. and Mrs. Munson were sent on their way with an enthusiastic showing of love and thanksgiving and were presented with a beautiful engraved chafing dish and a purse of money. One of the MORE groups arranged a farewell gathering."

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

The Munsons left Norwich for Syracuse and continued their "outreach service." They retired to the Glens Falls area where the Rev. Munson died on April 10, 1975 and is buried at Pine View Cemetery, Queensbury, Warren County, NY.

¹The reference should be to the Book of Luke

Save the Date

UCCNY Women's Conference this Spring

April 28-30.

**Thursday from 4:00 p.m. - Saturday noon
at Watson Homestead.**

Details to follow.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2016</h1>						
	1 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry	2 10:00 a.m. Literacy Volunteers, Chapel 2:30 p.m. The Place Teens 6:00 p.m. AA Mtg. 6:30 p.m. TNT Quilters	3 2:30 p.m. The Place Teens 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir	4 2:30 p.m. The Place Teens	5	6
7 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion Food Donation Sunday. See p.4 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:15 a.m. Bell Choir 1:00 p.m. Super Sew Sunday, Founders' Rm. 4:00 p.m. SAME Mtg.	8	9 9:00 a.m. Susquehanna Assoc. Supervisory Meeting 10:00 a.m. Literacy Volunteers, Chapel 2:30 p.m. The Place Teens 6:00 p.m. AA Mtg. 6:30 p.m. TNT Quilters 6:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting	10 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 2:30 p.m. The Place Teens 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service at Christ Lutheran Church. All welcome.	11 2:30 p.m. The Place Teens 6:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Founders' Rm.	12	13
14 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:15 a.m. Bell Choir 3:00 p.m. Pastor Joe at Chenango Valley Home.	15 Presidents' Day <i>Church Office Closed</i> 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry	16 9:00 a.m. Head Start Policy Council, Founders' Rm. 10:00 a.m. Literacy Volunteers, Chapel 2:30 p.m. The Place Teens 6:00 p.m. AA Mtg. 6:30 p.m. TNT Quilters	17 12:00 p.m. Lent Study. See p. 11 1:00 p.m. PAC Meeting. 2:30 p.m. The Place Teens 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m. Democratic Committee	18 2:30 p.m. The Place Teens 6:00 p.m. Alzheimers Support Group, Founders' Rm. 7:00 p.m. Executive Council Mtg.	19	20
21 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship Paper Products/Diaper Sunday 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:15 a.m. Bell Choir 4:00 p.m. SAME Expo. See p.4.	22	23 10:00 a.m. Literacy Volunteers, Chapel 2:30 p.m. The Place Teens 6:00 p.m. AA Mtg. 6:00 p.m. TNT Quilters	24 12:00 p.m. Lent Study. See p. 11 2:30 p.m. The Place Teens 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir	25 2:30 p.m. The Place Teens 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting	26	27
28 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:15 a.m. Bell Choir	29 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry					



UCC, First Congregational, Norwich, NY has a long history of gifts bequeathed by former members and memorial gifts given by family and friends. To recognize and honor our past and encourage growth in our future, our scholarship program is supported by some recent generous gifts. Scholarship amounts vary up to \$1,000.

General Information

- The successful candidates will be chosen by the Memorial Gifts Scholarship Committee.
- Scholarships can be used for post-secondary undergraduate education.
- Preference will be given to UCC members, UCC employees, and the children/grandchildren of UCC members and UCC employees.
- Awards for graduating seniors will be presented at the Dollars for Scholars Presentation.
- The awards will be made on character, service, scholarship and financial considerations. Some awards have additional criteria as noted.

Scholarships for Applicants who are Covenant Members of UCC, First Congregational Norwich:

Memorial Gifts Scholarship (number of scholarships varies)
Alexander and Alice Neill Scholarship (1 scholarship)

Scholarships for All Applicants

Donald Tracy Scholarships (4 scholarships)
Theodore Dolgos Scholarships (2 scholarships)
Theron and Margaret Hust Scholarship (1 scholarship)

Applications will be available from the church office or online at <www.uccnorwichny.org> after February 1.

Deadline for applications is April 15.

LENTEN LUNCH STUDY

“Seeing Ourselves in Those Confronted by Jesus”

You are invited to join your brothers and sisters from other local churches for this 6-week study, in which we will discover the importance of those who were around Jesus. We will learn about groups from Jesus' time, including the Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, and Zealots, and we will be challenged to consider who in the twenty-first-century church is like the members of these groups.

Wednesdays, 12:00 noon at the following locations:

February 17 Broad St. United Methodist Church
February 24 Christ Lutheran Church
March 2 Emmanuel Episcopal Church
March 9 United Church of Christ
March 16 First Baptist Church
March 23 Broad St. United Methodist Church

You may come for any or all of the sessions.

Please bring a bag lunch.



WANTED: YOUR OLD COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

Mission Central, a mission of the United Methodist Church in Pennsylvania runs a Computer Ministry, which collects computer equipment items, refurbishes them, and then makes them available for a small fee to non-profit ministries and other organizations that need computers. The Broad St. United Methodist Church will be taking a van to this Mission and has room for more computer equipment.

Please check the list below for what can be accepted, and deliver to Broad St. UMC **before Friday, February 26.**

Desktops	Keyboards
Laptops	Modems
Hard Drives	Network Equipment
Printers	Tablets
Scanners	CD/DVD drives
Monitors	Video/sound cards

We can NOT accept TVs

Support the New York Conference

You can choose to support the UCC New York Conference when you shop on Amazon. Amazon.com makes it possible for you to donate a percentage of your purchases to your favorite charitable cause through AmazonSmile. Amazon will contribute 0.5% of eligible products you purchase to the charity you choose. It might not sound like a lot but over time it can add up.

If you haven't used Amazon Smile before, all you have to do is go to smile.amazon.com and choose the charity you want to support. There are many charities from which to choose and UCCNY Conference is one. (Both the church and Pastor Joe have chosen to support the Conference with their purchases.)

Then when you shop, just go to smile.amazon.com. (You can set a bookmark to make it easier to return there.)

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. In our Congregational tradition, while pastors are encouraged to use the assigned readings, it's not mandatory. This is published in the hope that some may use these readings in their personal prayer and devotional time.

Transfiguration Sunday - February 7

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4; Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

Ash Wednesday - February 10

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

First Sunday in Lent - February 14

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

Second Sunday in Lent - February 21

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

Third Sunday in Lent - February 28

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

Prayer Concerns

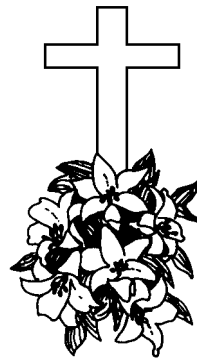
Let us keep in our prayers the following concerns:

- * 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 and loved ones of **Ron Herrett** who died on
January 26, 2016

to **Jeff and Janet Johson** and their family for the loss of
Jeff's mother, **Catherine Johnson** who died on January
25, 2016.



Visitors to Our Church in January

Wendy Stanton, Oneonta

Jim Willard, Greene



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).

February

1	Betty Yeahl	16	Audrey Aitken
4	Bonnie Connolly	22	Norma Kinney
6	Rose Laughlin	24	Linda Oehme
	Ron Musson	25	Irene Sobers
9	Matthew Craig	28	Gwendolyn Breese
11	Joshua Miller		

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**

DATED MATERIAL: Please Deliver Promptly.
This issue mailed 01/29/2016.

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PERMIT 24
NORWICH NY 13815