



**June  
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

## **Call to the 202<sup>nd</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

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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](mailto:office@uccnorwichny.org) Website: [www.uccnorwichny.org](http://www.uccnorwichny.org)

## From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

I recently was looking at some Newsletters published a number of years ago (in the case to which I am referring, 15 years). As you know, I arrived nearly 20 years ago. June 2<sup>nd</sup> marks 20 full years since I accepted a call to this church.

The explanation as to why I was looking at these letters is too long and boring to relate. On the other hand, when I read the letter re-printed below, a letter from the July/August edition of 2001, I realized not only is it still relevant but that I was highlighting some of the same themes in that writing I'm addressing in the Annual Report for 2015-2016 which I just wrote.

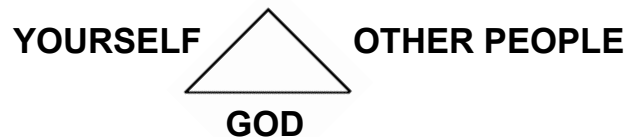
Yes, the more things change.... All of which is to say because of that I decided to reprint this letter from 2001.

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Dear Friends in Christ,

I find it hard to believe, but Bonnie and I have been here five full years now. That realization leads me to reflect on what I consider to be a major theme so far in this pastorate. The overriding theme has been one of **covenant**.

That humanity is in covenant with God is a given. Without covenant among people there is no such thing as church. Church is not the building; the building is the meeting house. The people are the church. This covenant which exists among us means we offer one another mutual care, love and support. To be clear, the covenant of which I speak has three edges: each individual as that individual relates to God and then each individual as that individual relates to other individuals. Schematically, it looks like this:



Within that major theme there are several areas to consider. Perhaps chief among them has to do with our Congregational tradition and heritage. Our stand is that we

are a priesthood of believers. That is one reason the sign in front of the church and in the weekly bulletin says: Ministers: All the People — Pastor and Teacher: Joseph Connolly. As Protestants and Congregationalists we take a position which says we are all involved in ministry, and, in our case, clergy are set aside to function in the specific office of pastor and teacher.

Having said that, I realize, over time, we have also been asking questions about self identity. Self identity is one key to covenant. After all, if we don't know who we are, it's difficult to relate to others.

I think, as a congregation, we have constantly asked ourselves (and should be constantly asking ourselves) 'who we are and where we are going?' I think this questioning of self-identity is important. In fact, it's the kind of question any well run business asks of itself. It is in this way a business stays focused. It is no different for a church. Focus is important.

Institutions (businesses, churches, museums, schools) are, of course, generally traditional organizations. Institutions like things done in a systematic fashion. But adherence to regularity can produce unwanted results, results of which people must be cautious. Preserving the status quo becomes an overriding focus rather than maintaining an acute awareness that conditions around us constantly develop and change. In short, a tendency can evolve in institutions to pay more attention to the way things should be, or the way things are imagined to be, or the way we want things to be than to pay attention to the more important reality of being aware of the way things actually are.

Constantly asking who we are and where do we want to go is a check against what might otherwise be a counterproductive road to apathy. Asking who we are and where we are going as individuals and a church guards against such stagnation. The foresight created by asking questions of self identity is corrective for any institution.

The habit of asking identity questions is always hard work. We should be proud of the fact that we have endeavored to be about this work. Further, we should be proud of that fact that we do not treat things lightly. Rather, we proceed with caution and care in an attempt to listen to the opinions and input of all as we try to be sure no one is left on the wayside.

This all comes back to that overriding theme of covenant

which is, indeed, hard work. At one service weeks ago I suggested Jesus said our life with God and one another is hard because the path is narrow and the road difficult. The path is narrow and the road is difficult not because our life with God and one another can be reduced to a set of rules, but because it can't. **The road is narrow and difficult because life is about being in deep relationship with God and each other.** Living life in covenant is about no rule other than the rule of love.

In Faith,

Joe Connolly

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And yes, "see you in church." I do hope I see you in church where we strive to be in deep relationship with God and each other.

In Faith,

  
Joe Connolly

**Food Sunday - June 5**

Bring in food items for donation to Our Daily Bread Food Pantry. Needed Items: chicken noodles soup, canned items, cereal and crackers. Fresh veggies from your gardens are always welcome too. A basket for donations will be in front of the communion table.

**Paper Products & Diaper Sunday - June 19**

Bring in paper products and personal care items for donation to Our Daily Bread Food Pantry. Or bring in diapers for donation to First Baptist Church for their Fourth Saturday Diaper Project held June 25.



# Historian Notes

by Patricia Evans, Church Historian

## **Mr. Harry L. Case**

### **Assistant to the Minister 1957-1975**

Harry Case was born August 25, 1892 in Easton, Washington County, New York (southeast of Saratoga Springs, NY) to Charles H. and Alma (Lane) Case. He was a Class of 1911 graduate of Greenwich High School, Greenwich, NY.

After high school graduation Harry taught school for two years in the town of Easton. He then entered Cortland Normal School, Cortland, NY graduating in 1915.

Harry was a June of 1932, graduate of Syracuse University with a B.A. Degree. He taught agriculture at Union-Endicott High School in Endicott, NY, for four years and while there organized the Agricultural Department.

Mr. Case moved to Norwich in 1920 where he founded 4-H club work that was first called Junior Project Extension Work. In 1922 he organized and held the first 4-H club camp in New York State at Chenango Lake. He also started the first 4-H Achievement Day in Norwich in 1923 for all the boys and girls that had completed their projects to come to Norwich for a day of fun which included a parade, dinner at local churches in the city and entertainment at the Colonia Theater. He also organized the first 4-H band in 1931.

By 1934 over 1,000 boys and girls were participating in the 4-H Achievement Day. Mr. Case continued in this work for 37 years having received many honors on the local and state levels. During his work here in Chenango County there were 82 state winners, six national winners and one member of an international dairy cattle judging team.

In 1949 Charles F. Branna, the Secretary of Agriculture awarded Mr. Case in Washington, D.C., the first Superior Service Award for exemplary leadership, skill and ingenuity in developing and maintaining a 4-H club and youth adult education program.

Upon his retirement in 1956 from 4-H with over 36 years of service, there were over 1,500 4-H Club members in Chenango

County.

During the period after World War II there were several immigrant waves that came to the United States. One of these was from Hungary that consisted of about 27,000 displaced from Hungary that were of the upper middle class society. Many left Hungary for fear of Soviet domination of the homeland.

Mr. Case was the General Chairman of the Chenango County Committee that brought 41 Hungarian refugees to Norwich in January 1957. The committee helped to provide them with homes and employment. The First Congregational Church of Norwich, NY sponsored the Buzza family, a husband and wife with three children, they moved to Cleveland that September.

Among other things, Harry was a counselor to youth groups and attended Migrant Committee meetings as a representative of our church.

Mr. Case was also a life member of the Norwich PTA, and a 50 year member of the Oxford Grange, also 50 year member of the Norwich Rotary Club and Norwich Lodge 302, F&AM. Harry was also involved in the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and the Public Health Associations.

Harry joined the First Congregational Church of Norwich, NY in April of 1923. He immediately put to work using his ability to serve and organize. He taught church Sunday school, served as Trustee and as Moderator, and studied and served as lay minister. He was also elected as Deacon and served in that capacity for many years, and in 1957 he was elected as "Assistant to the Minister" under the ministry of the Rev. Avery Post. Serving in that position for 18 years.

As Assistant to the minister, Harry specialized in service to the elderly, and with his wife, Mildred, made many visitations each week of the ill and shut-ins, to both church and non-church members as well. He assisted the ministers by bringing the Communion service to homebound members and assisted in the many details of administration. Mr. Case also led a weekly "Prayer Group" in the Otis A. Thompson Chapel located in the church.

In addition to Harry's many ministerial duties, he assisted with the Church School. He attended all meetings of the Sunday school teachers and the Board of Religious Education and attended workshops and conferences relating to Christian Education. He also served as Church School Secretary-

Treasurer and aided in organizing the school curriculum.

He also helped to publish the church monthly newsletter. Harry and his wife, Mildred were also delegates to the Susquehanna Association.

In 1963 he was given the church honor of being elected "Deacon Emeritus," the first in the history of our church. In 1970, he received the Liberty Bell award at the May 1<sup>st</sup>, Law Day Ceremonies of Chenango County.

In 1927 Harry married Mildred Kellogg and they had a son, Donald F. Case. Mildred taught in public schools for many years and was an active member of the church in many capacities, including President of the Loving Kindness Circle of the church.

In 1973 Harry became ill was forced to resign his many duties. He died in 1975, survived by his wife, son and three grandchildren. A Memorial service was held for Harry on Saturday, July 12, 1975 at the First Congregational Church of Norwich, NY.

*Note: If some of these dates seem a little scrambled, they are. But that is what these sources said (1975 Obituary in "Evening Sun", Norwich NY and "History of The United Church of Christ First Congregational Norwich, New York 1914-1976")*

## **Dave Koterba Wacka-Wacka Golf Tournament**



**Sunday, June 12**

**Sundown Golf Course in Guilford**

**2:00 p.m. shot-gun start**

Captain and crew format

\$17 per person for 9 holes and cart

For those who want to stay, we will enjoy a meal afterward at the golf course.

Room for up to 9 four-person teams.

**Please send your team members' names to Ellen Cleveland at  
ecleveland08213@roadrunner.com**

## Annual Norwich Scholars Dinner by Rev. Joe Connolly, Pastor and Teacher

Once again, the Norwich community is organizing an Honors Banquet, the 19<sup>th</sup> annual, to celebrate the scholars of the Norwich High School graduating class. The dinner will be held on **Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**.

The committee is pleased to announce that the **Honorable Frank B. Revoir, Jr.** (NHS, class of 1984), Judge of the Chenango County Court, Family Court and Surrogate's Court, will address the students being honored. As you may be aware, all the speakers over the years have graduated from the Norwich City School District system and have returned to serve the Community.

Frank served as a Law Clerk to the Chenango County Courts, worked in the New York State Assembly for Minority Leader Clarence "Rapp" Rappleyea (a previous speaker), and as Assistant Chenango County Attorney. Frank was awarded a J.D. from Albany Law School in 1991. Frank has served on the Board of Directors for Hospice of Chenango County, Holy Family School, the Chenango County Council of the Arts, and the Norwich Business Improvement District (BID).

But, needless to say, this is not so much about the speaker as it is about the students. The scholars we honor achieve an average of 90 or above in their high school career. At the dinner each student is called forward individually and given a certificate which recognizes their accomplishment.

Based on experience, we expect the cost of the project to be around \$4,500. We are now soliciting funds from a broad base in the community— businesses, churches and individuals— asking for donations. If you are interested in financial support of this **Community Event**, one which honors our students for their achievements, all donations, **large or small**, are welcome.

We ask for your support because sports teams have booster clubs, but our "All Academic Team" does not. We do not even know who will qualify for membership in this club until the March marking period is over. And, to be clear: without **your** support— **community support**— there would be no banquet.

An account is set up at the district office for donations. Please send any contribution made out to the **Norwich City**



**School District, 89 Midland Drive, Norwich, NY 13815,**  
**Attention: Wendy Burdick.** Please put a memo on the check  
 which says: **Community Honors Banquet.** This is helpful.

Again, this is about our “All Academic Team,” and  
 academics is the core mission of our schools. On the reverse  
 side of this letter you will find a list of the students being  
 honored. If you happen to see any of them, take a moment  
 to say “Job well done.” And, if you choose, please support  
 this event which recognizes their achievement by making a  
 contribution.




If you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself,  
 Superintendent O’Sullivan or High School Principal Waters.  
 Thank you for your help.

#### **2016 Honors Recipients**

Gina Arcidiacono	Alexis Renae Race
Cameron Edwards	Thomas Reilly
Kaitlyn Mae Jackson	Jordan Nicole Sanford
Kiana Bay Jennings	Kassidy Nikole Seary
Trent Kasmarcik	Katelyn Shaver
Jake Klockowski	Carey Sheldon
Nicole Marie Little	Isabella Nicole Sigler
Ashley Elizabeth Marvin	Jordan Michael Vinal
Kyle McCumber	Jake Walsh
Shannon Marie Moore	Savannah Williams
Mathew Parrella	Bruce John Winter
Artemis Peptis	Morgan Elizabeth Yates
Connor Patrick Phelan	

#### **Community Honors Banquet Speakers Over the Years**

1998	Peggy Raynor ‘67	2007	Edward Erickson ‘68
1999	Matthew Cooney ‘59	2008	Joseph Angelino ‘78
2000	Howard Sullivan ‘60	2009	Kurt Edwards ‘80
2001	Gary Brookins ‘67	2010	Doug Wilson ‘71 & Sharon Wilson ‘71
2002	John Brereton ‘63	2011	Steve Benenati ‘71
2003	Patrick Newell ‘85	2012	Timothy Handy ‘78
2004	Donald Chirlin ‘53 & Sally Chirlin ‘53	2013	Lisa Natoli ‘94
2005	Clarence Rappleyea ‘51	2014	Susan Carson Ryan ‘85
2006	Anna Marie Ward ‘77	2015	Amber Perkins ‘90
		2016	Frank Revoir ‘84

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>June 2016</b>						
			<b>1</b> 10:30 a.m. J. Handy, Nave 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m. Democratic Committee	<b>2</b> 12:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs	<b>3</b> 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 10:30 a.m. J. Handy, Nave	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion Food Donation Sunday 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:15 a.m. Bell Choir 6:30 a.m. M. Conant Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl 12:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs 7:00 p.m. Music Club Members, Nave	<b>7</b> 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting 6:30 p.m. TNT Quilters 7:00 p.m. M. Conant Students Recital	<b>8</b> 9:30 a.m. Committee on Authorized Ministry Meeting, Homer 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir	<b>9</b> 6:00 p.m. Piecemakers	<b>10</b> 10:00 a.m. Tutoring	<b>11</b>
<b>UCC NY Annual Conference, June 10 - 12</b>						
<b>12</b> 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship/Intergenerational Sunday 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:15 a.m. Bell Choir 2:00 p.m. Golf Tournament. See p. 7.	<b>13</b> 12:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs	<b>14</b> 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 10:00 a.m. Susquehanna Supervisory Mtg., Binghamton 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting 6:30 p.m. TNT Quilters	<b>15</b> 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m. Democratic Committee (tentative)	<b>16</b> 12:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs 6:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group	<b>17</b> 9:00 a.m. Golf Tournament. See p. 15. 10:00 a.m. Tutoring	<b>18</b> 4:00 p.m. Conant in Founders' Room
<b>19</b> 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship - Music Sunday Covenant Share Sunday Paper Products Sunday 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:15 a.m. Bell Choir 3:00 p.m. Choir shares the Word at Chenango Valley Home	<b>20</b> 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 12:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs	<b>21</b> 9:00 a.m. Head Start Policy Council 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 6:00 a.m. AA Meeting 6:30 p.m. TNT Quilters 7:00 p.m. NHS Community Honors Banquet	<b>22</b> 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir 	<b>23</b> 12:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs	<b>24</b> 10:00 a.m. Tutoring	<b>25</b> NHS Graduation  4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Diaper Give Away at First Baptist Church, Norwich 
<b>26</b> 9:00 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship/Annual Meeting 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:15 a.m. Bell Choir	<b>27</b> 12:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs	<b>28</b> 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting 6:00 p.m. TNT Quilters	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 12:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Save the Date -</b> See page 12..

## Vine and Fig Tree Supper Club

This event will hopefully become the first of many that will bring together UCC members and friends for a themed dinner, with the profits going to a local charity.

<b>When?</b>	<b>Saturday, July 2nd at 6pm</b>
<b>Where?</b>	<b>Norwich UCC Church</b>
<b>RSVP?</b>	<b>To Cheri at 334-3434</b>
<b>Cost?</b>	<b>Donation</b>
<b>Who's cooking?</b>	<b>Jamie Maholchic and friends</b>

Spaces are limited to 30 diners, so please RSVP as soon as possible! Those requesting a vegetarian or gluten free meal should let Cheri know when the reservation is made.

The theme of this first dinner will be George Washington, whose favorite Bible verse is the inspiration for this project, so please come prepared to enjoy an authentic colonial meal fit for the first President! The menu: Assorted Colonial Breads, Green Salad with Corn Fritters, Beef "Olives", Summer Vegetables, Roasted Potatoes and assorted Colonial Desserts



"but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid..." (Micah 4:4)





## **UCC Covenant Share Sunday - June 19<sup>th</sup>**

“The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

The New York Conference equips a variety of saints for building up the body of Christ in New York State. We equip authorized ministers through retreats and trainings, lay leaders through the New York School of Ministry, future trailblazers through the New York State Youth Event, and communities within and beyond state borders through our justice and witness, missions and ecumenical partnerships. Thanks to your support through UCC Covenant share, we enhance the ministerial gifts given to many of our over thirty thousand members.

Another way your UCC Covenant Share is used is in our ministries in Church Revitalization. There is a high probability that your congregation has been blessed in some way by our ministry to congregations. Perhaps it is a New Church Start supported by the Conference and/or the national offices of the UCC. Perhaps your congregation is one of twenty that has benefitted from a year of cluster coaching with nationally known author Paul Nixon. Perhaps members from your church were part of the over one hundred people who recently attended our Membership to Discipleship workshops in Henrietta and the Bronx. Perhaps your church has explored new mission and ministry possibilities through Mission Insight and Readiness 360. Our ministry helps our congregations re-imagine themselves. In doing so, we assist our churches in the faithful practice of dreaming not nostalgically about what was, but in hope about what may be!

We the New York Conference Board and Staff are fully committed to Church Revitalization, for we believe that spiritually vital and healthy churches make a healthy Conference. Please join this commitment by your investment in UCC Covenant Share. Thank you and bless you for your support of the New York Conference.

## Look in the Mail Box

Dear Joe,

On behalf of the BTS Center, thank you for your congregation's generous gift. Your gift helps us preserve a critically important legacy of Bangor Theological Seminary - preparing women and men for leadership in a variety of ministry contexts. That legacy is particularly biased toward those anticipating or engaged in ministry in rural or small town settings. Your gift helps us offer scholarships and reduced registration costs for our program events.

Robert Grove-Markwood, Executive Director  
The BTS Center

Dear Friends,

Chenango County Habitat for Humanity hereby wishes to express its appreciation for your generous donation, as well as donations received over the years.

In lieu of currently building a new house, until funds are available, CCHH has been helping various families with small work projects referred to by International as "Brush with Kindness" program. Some of the projects included a refurbished deck, new roof, bathroom done over for handicapped, etc.

Thank you for your support!

Sandra Colton, Office Manager, Board Member  
Chenango County Habitat for Humanity

Dear UCC,

Thank you so much for your kindness in giving us the Pack-n-Play. My son is already enjoying it, hopefully for many months to come. It is program like these that help our communities.

[Recipient of portable crib through Safe Sleep Program]

Dear Rev. Connolly and Church Members,

I want to thank you personally for making my education possible and for believing in the CRCDS mission. You play a tremendous role in preparing me as a competent and prophetic leader. I am so grateful!

Your generosity helps CRCDS provide the necessary resources to students like me and helps reduce our debt load. I thank God for you. Thank you!

Robert Hoggard, '16

Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School

Dear Pastor Connolly and UCC Community,

We can't thank you enough for always being a good friend to Hospice! We are so grateful. Thanks to you we have been providing quality end of life care to our community for 25 years! Your help made that happen.

Kendall Drexler, Development Coordinator

Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango County



### **Par Fore Pets**

**Fundraiser for Chenango SPCA**

**Friday June 17 - Canasawacta Country Club**

**9:00 a.m. Registration, 10:00 a.m. Shotgun Start**

Includes Green Fees, Cart, Prizes,

Free beverages on the course, Breakfast and Picnic Dinner

\$360 per Captain and Crew Team, Individual Player is \$100)

**Registration Deadline is June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

## **Church Office Hours in June**

Please be aware that Cheri Willard will be taking some vacation days in June this year. For personal reasons they will be sporadic, so to print a schedule might be only confusing. Additionally, there will be coverage in the office for most of those days. Hence, a reminder: if you need Pastor Joe his cell number is: (607) 226-7141. Note: text when possible. Call when necessary.

## 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.

### **June 5 - Proper 5 (10) - Third Sunday after Pentecost**

1 Kings 17:8-16, (17-24)

Psalm 146; 1 Kings 17:17-24

Psalm 30; Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17

### **June 12 - Proper 6 (11) - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

1 Kings 21:1-10, (11-14), 15-21a

Psalm 5:1-8; 2 Samuel 11:26-12:10, 13-15

Psalm 32; Galatians 2:15-21; Luke 7:36-8:3

### **June 19 - Proper 7 (12) - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a

Psalm 42 and 43; Isaiah 65:1-9

Psalm 22:19-28; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39

### **June 26 - Proper 8 (13) - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14;

Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20; 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

Psalm 16; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62



## Bulletins from Other Churches

Elizabeth Barber-Breese - Northminster Presbyterian  
Church, Tucson, Arizona, April 24, 2016

## Visitors to our Church in May

Bill Johnson

DJ Smith

Charles Burnett, Oxford

Jessie Golden, Oxford

## Director of Children & Youth Ministries

Linda L. Oehme

June will be a busy month for Church School. Our last day of regular classes is May 29<sup>th</sup>. There won't be class on June 5<sup>th</sup> but we will have class on June 12<sup>th</sup> which also is Intergenerational Sunday. We will meet in the Nave at 8:30 a.m. to prepare for our part in the Worship Service. Help support the children of our Church School. Don't miss out on our presentation. It will be a very informal service with a couple of great surprises which everyone will love.



**Vacation Bible School will take place on August 21<sup>st</sup> –August 25<sup>th</sup> here at UCC. Surf Shack: Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love is the theme of the program we will be using this year. We will be transforming the Nave into a "surf shack". The students will experience God's amazing love, explore God's mission for their lives, encounter powerful water stories from the Bible and discover ways to live our God's amazing love.**

Someone recently asked me, 'Why do you want to provide VBS in your church?' Well, Jen and I believe that VBS is an excellent tool for outreach to the community. It's a way to invite those who do not normally attend a church, to get involved, and to build a relationship with others and with Jesus Christ. It's also a great way to build relationships with children and adults from the other churches in our community. This is a community endeavor...not just UCC. And all the congregations can get involve in this outreach program, using their God-given talents to share the love of Jesus with others. Adults can donate or loan "stuff", decorate, teach, shepherd children, prepare food, send invitations, send follow-up cards, work with publicity and pray. Jen and I can find a job for everyone. **Let's go!** Oops...that was last year's saying...this year will be...

# AMAZING!





**July 14 - July 24**  
**8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**  
**Norwich High School**

### **What is Greater Chenango Cares?**

It is a partnership with the Department of Defense to provide an opportunity for residents of Chenango County and our adjacent neighboring counties to participate in a no-cost military training program known as: Innovative Readiness Training (IRT).

### **What is Innovative Readiness Training?**

Innovative Readiness Training provides real-world training opportunities for our service members to prepare them for wartime and disaster missions, while supporting the needs of America's underserved communities.

### **SERVICES AVAILABLE**

**There are no residency, income or insurance requirements.**

#### **Dental - APPOINTMENTS ONLY**

Cleanings, Fillings, Fluoride Treatments, Sealants and Simple Extractions

#### **Medical - WALK IN**

Basic Medical needs, Sports and School Physicals, Prescription Consult, Risk Assessment for Diabetes, High Blood Pressure, Nutrition Counseling, Pain Management, etc.

#### **Optometry APPOINTMENTS ONLY**

Testing for Cataracts, Glaucoma and Macular Degeneration. Visual examinations for single-focal distance or reading prescription glasses. Your choice of one pair of prescription glasses (distance or reading) manufactured on-site for pick-up and fitting.

#### **Veterinary**

Rabies Vaccination - WALK IN

Spay, Neuter -APPOINTMENTS ONLY (no appointments at this time)

**CALL FOR APPOINTMENTS STARTING JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> - 337-4320**

### **Want to Volunteer?**

Contact Chenango United Way at 334-8815 or check their website: [volunteer.chenangouw.org/aem](http://volunteer.chenangouw.org/aem)

## 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.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

**Jack Brereton and Glenn and Naomi Mahaffey** for the birth of their granddaughter, **Charlotte Jane Miner** on April 27, 2016 to **Mary and Chris Miner**.

**Pastor David and Martha Spiegel** on the birth of their sixth grandchild, **Thea Madison Spiegel** on May 1, 2016 to **DJ and Nicole Spiegel**.



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 Catherine Hammons | 25 Ramona Oehme     |
| 11 Pat Bridge        | 26 Brooke Bonney    |
| 13 Jessica Posner    | Morgan Hagenbuch    |
| 18 Bill Aitken       | 27 June Granz       |
| 22 Joan Phetteplace  | 28 Jack Brereton    |

## **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 Music Ministries: **Mary Williams**  
Director of Youth Ministries: **Linda Oehme**  
Parish Coordinator: **Cheri Willard**  
Counselor, Family Counseling Ministry:  
**Joanne Lanfear**

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