

UCC NEWS



September 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: 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,

Success— it’s an American dream, an American ideal, an American icon, an American goal. After all, attend nearly any sporting event (especially championship type events— and that’s championship at any level from grade school to professional, from local to national), and you are likely to hear this chant break out: “We’re number one! We’re number one! We’re number one!”

And what does that mean? Number one at what? Baseball? Football? Academics? Chess? Does it only mean besting the other party at whatever the endeavor, with whatever rules apply?

If so, if you *have* bested another party at whatever the endeavor, with whatever rules apply, what does that mean? You won? But what did you win? Bragging rights for this moment?

After all, you do realize that next season, next month, next year, even perhaps tomorrow yet another game must be played, another contest entered in an effort to find out who will be a “success,” who will be “number one” this time around. In short, bragging rights for the moment are excruciatingly finite when you consider the thought that the so called “known universe” is 13.799 billion light years across. All of which is to ask **“what is success?”**

I think success is not a particularly measurable term, in any ultimate sense. Why? At best success is measured in ways which are temporary, fleeting, often random and even incidental. All that opens (at least) two questions: “How are we to measure success?” and “What does it mean to be successful, really?”

First and therefore, success is not a goal. Success is a *process*. Second and therefore, success is something you strive to repeat over and over and over. Third and therefore, success is something you learn to do.

If that sounds confusing, let me offer a sports comparison. The rules of golf allow that one ball must be played on an individual hole from tee to green. Of course, once on the green, putting the ball with accuracy is imperative. However, in a box of nine balls— boxes come in different quantities, usually

anywhere from nine to twenty— in a box of nine, on average, only one of those nine balls will be perfectly balanced to the point where there is no wobble when the ball is perfectly struck.

So, let's suppose you are a golfer on a green. Your next job is to strike a perfectly balanced ball (if you have a perfectly balanced ball) perfectly. And let's suppose you do that: you strike a perfectly balanced ball perfectly.

The ball then has to travel over the distance between where it was to the hole and in. The first guarantee you can make is the green will be less than flat. So you may have a ball that is perfectly balanced but it's also true that in order to be perfectly struck, the trajectory of the ball needs to be calculated perfectly across a green that undulates.

Further, it's likely before you got to that green other people have walked on it, leaving imperfections in the smooth grass from their spikes. Squirrels have probably scampered across it, leaving imperfections, small claw marks. Or birds may have pecked at the grass, causing irregularities. I am sure you realize there are a hundred ways the surface across which a perfectly balanced, perfectly struck ball needs to roll on its journey to the hole that will make the ball encounter a less than perfect transit.

Hence, even the best golfer has only one recourse. Do not worry about the result, the goal of the putt. The result will be what the result will be. Worry only about how well you execute the putt. Worry about how well you engage in the *process* called putting.

And that is precisely why golfers of all levels should spend time on putting greens: to rehearse the *process* over and over and over until they become proficient at the *process*. When you putt as well as you can, even when you putt "perfectly," sometimes the result will mean the ball finds the bottom of the hole. Sometimes the result will mean the ball will not find the bottom of the hole.

So to it is with the game called life. Results, goals can be and are temporary, fleeting, often random, even incidental.

So for me success has to do with *process*. That having been said, I want to brag. And I hope you will allow for that. I think we, the members of the church, had a very successful Summer and I have every expectation that our success will continue into

the Fall.

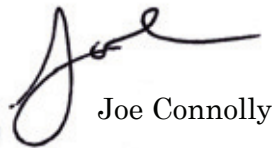
How was this Summer successful? Yes, we had our 19th annual Dixieland Jazz Service and for the second year hosted the annual Norwich Vacation Bible School— *Surf Shack*— with your's truly as Snappy the Crab. And yes, we had six Union Services. These included services with the Baptists, the Methodists, the Episcopalians, the Lutherans in various combinations.

But why do I call this, rate this a “success?” We were engrossed in the *process* of engaging one another. We were employed in the *process* of recognizing one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

So, in short, success in the church is not about setting goals and meeting them. That's not what success in the church looks like. What success in the church looks like is being involved in a *process*. Indeed, in some quarters this *process* is known more simply as loving God and loving neighbor.

So, what more is there to say? See you in church, where we engage in *process* called loving God and loving neighbor. That is not why we are successful. That is how we are successful.

In Faith,



Joe Connolly

Paper Products Sunday - September 18th

Bring in **paper products** (toilet tissue, paper towels) and **personal care items** (soap, feminine products, razors, shampoo) for donation to Our Daily Bread Food Pantry. A basket will be at the rear of the Nave for your donations.

Director of Children and Youth Ministries

Linda L. Oehme

Rally Day will be on September 18th. We will kick off the new Church School year with a new curriculum. This curriculum serves children from ages 3 to 12. We meet most Sundays at 8:30 a.m. Come and see what it is all about. We will continue to have Adult Church School most Sundays at 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel and a lectionary based Adult Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. We're never too old to learn and refresh our faith.

Norwich Community Vacation Bible School was a great success! Jen and I were very pleased with the 22 energetic and well-behaved children who attended the program. The Nave was transformed into a "surf shack" and everybody loved it. The students experienced God's amazing love, explored God's mission for their lives, encountered powerful water stories from the Bible and discovered ways to live out God's amazing love.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped us in this wonderful community endeavor— especially, the leaders and workers, all volunteers and contributors.

Thank you, Thank You, THANK YOU!!!!

It takes all of us to meet the needs of our children.

If you loaned surf boards and have not gotten them, please stop by the UCC office during open hours.

And yes, this summer was:

AMAZING!



L **OK** in the Mail Box

Dear Pastor Connolly and Congregation,

Thank you for recognizing my efforts and hard work in the classroom. Your award will help me with the financial costs in furthering my education at St. Lawrence University. I feel blessed to have grown up in such a tight knit and giving community. I look forward to returning.

Cameron Edwards

Dear Rev. Connolly,

Once again I must offer my sincere thanks and appreciation for all the work you did to support this year's Honors Banquet. This year we recognized the academic achievement of 25 students. This event is definitely a great tribute to our academic all-stars. Thank you again for helping to make this year's banquet a success!

Gerard O'Sullivan, Superintendent
Norwich City School District

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your gracious donation to the Dept. of Health to help needy families with children by providing cribs/Pack & Play's, AKA: Project Safe Sleep.

I just had my daughter June 20th. Due to a change in income within the household we were unable to purchase one along with all the other essential needed for our baby. Knowing our baby had a place to sleep when we brought her home was a tremendous relief.

We sincerely appreciate your generosity! What you have done has seriously helped my family and I know has helped many others also. Thank you again and God bless you!

Ruth 2:12 "The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!"

Sincerely Yours,

[name withheld to protect privacy]

Dear UCC,

Thank you so much for awarding me with the scholarship again. I had an incredible experience at school my first year, and absolutely cannot wait to go back. This scholarship is an incredible help in allowing me to do what I love (gymnastics) and to learn so much (both in my classes and out.). Thank you again.

Morgan Hagenbuch

Dear UCC,

We are deeply grateful to you for your contribution for a scholarship to New Brunswick Theological Seminary student David Spiegel. Your support ensures we can provide the next generation of leaders with the excellent training that is synonymous with a NBTS theological education. Your gift impacts more than the lives of our students – it flows beyond our campus and, through our Seminarians, enriches every community, company and congregation they faithfully serve.

Because of you, we have been able to accomplish a great deal.

Gregg A. Mast, President
New Brunswick Theological Seminary

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for assisting me financially in my endeavor to complete a Doctor of Ministry. Your kindness to me and your faith in me is encouraging and uplifting. I am in the middle of the third trimester of my first year and so far things have gone quite well. It is a big relief to be able to focus on school work more and fundraising less! I have always appreciated the good relationship that our churches share and I look forward to continuing our work together! I am at the end of the first year of what should be a three year program, and your kindness has made the journey that much easier. Thank you Again.

God's blessings to you all.
Dave Spiegel

Dear UCC,

Thank you so much for your gracious amount of the scholarship money you have given to me. It will be very helpful towards college living, education and recreational expenses.

Briana Phelps

Dear UCC,

Thank you for presenting me with the UCC Top 10 Scholar Award. The award money will help me further my education at St. Lawrence University.

Jordan Vinal

Dear Joe,

My family and I thank you for your support, and for making Peter's memorial service such a beautiful tribute to him. We are so very grateful for your expertise and for your friendship. At a sad time in my life I feel strengthened and uplifted by your actions.

Very sincerely,
Virginia [Chaplin]

Rev. Joe,

Thank you so much for presiding over our special day. Your warmth and kindness was evident the first day we met you. We are thankful for this day and the happiness ahead. Thank you for your blessings now and moving forward.

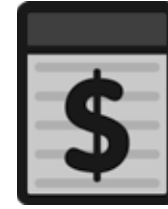
With Love,
Liane, Sara, GraceAnn, Maddie

Dear UCC,

Thank you so much for the Pack and Play.
We appreciate it.

[Name withheld to preserve privacy.]

We are Seeking a Treasurer Trainee!



Gary Gray is seeking assistance as he looks forward to his retirement from the duties of this role. We are hoping that someone may be interested in stepping forward initially on a part-time and occasional basis for a couple of years to assist and learn, covering the position during Gary's terms of absence, and progressing toward fully assuming the post in or about January of 2019. This is a paid position. If interested, please advise Cheri at the church office or direct questions to Gary. Applications are requested by submission of resume or similar statement of background and qualifications, for review of the Trustees, on or before October 23, 2016.









Food Pantry **Our Daily Bread Food Pantry
at Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Mon, Wed., Fri. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Mon & Wed reopens at 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.**



**Help
Needed!**

Fall will be arriving soon. School is opening for a new year. The year is going by very quickly. Our Daily Bread Food Pantry needs your support at all times of the year. Soups, canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, peanut butter, canned tuna, and spaghetti sauce are items the pantry can always use. We now have more refrigeration space, so if anyone has extra produce from their garden, it would be a wonderful additional to the meals. Thanks for your generosity to our community.

Barb and Gary Tompkins, Volunteer Coordinators

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>September 2016</h1> 						
				1	2	3
<p>4 10:00 a.m. Worship at First Baptist Church</p>	<p>5 Labor Day Church Office Closed</p> 	<p>6 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting 6:30 p.m. TNT Quilters</p>	<p>7 9:30 a.m. Home Bureau 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>8 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 6:00 p.m. Piecemakers</p>	<p>9 12:00 p.m. Colorscape Hospitality, Kitchen</p>	<p>10 All Day - Colorscape Hospitality, Kitchen NY Conference Board Meeting, Syracuse</p>
				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Colourscape Chenango Arts Festival Downtown Norwich September 10 - 11</p> </div>		
<p>11 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour</p>	<p>12 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:30 p.m. Music Club Concert, Nave See p. 17</p>	<p>13 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 6:00 a.m. AA Meeting 6:30 p.m. TNT Quilters 6:30 p.m. Deacon's Mtg.</p>	<p>14 9:30 a.m. Home Bureau 9:30 a.m. Committee on Authorized Ministry Meeting in Homer 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>15 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 6:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group 7:00 p.m. Executive Council Meeting</p>	<p>16 1:00 p.m. Food Pantry Training</p>	<p>17 8:30 a.m. Preparations for Impact Project Refreshments, Kitchen</p>
<p>18</p>  <p>RALLY DAY 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship Paper Products Sunday 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 12:00 p.m. Norwich Theater Co. Retreat, Mayflower Rm. 3:00 p.m. Pastor Joe shares the Word at Chenango Valley Home</p>	<p>19</p> 	<p>20 9:00 a.m. Head Start Policy Council 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting 6:30 p.m. TNT Quilters</p>	<p>21 9:30 a.m. Home Bureau 3:00 p.m. M. Conant lessons 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m. Democratic Committee</p>	<p>22 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 12:00 p.m. M. Conant Lessons</p> 	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Susquehanna Association Meeting, Preble 6:00 p.m. Vine & Fig Tree Dinner - See p.12.</p> 
<p>25 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour</p>	<p>26 Deadline for October Newsletter 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry</p>	<p>27 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 6:00 p.m. TNT Quilters 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting</p>	<p>28 9:30 a.m. Home Bureau 3:00 p.m. M. Conant Lessons 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>29 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 12:00 p.m. M. Conant Lessons</p>	<p>30 9:00 a.m. Collate October Newsletter</p>	

VINE AND FIG TREE Supper Club

An event to bring together UCC members and friends for a themed dinner, with the profits going to a local charity.

When? Saturday, September 24th
Where? Norwich UCC Church
RSVP? To Cheri at 334-3434
Cost? Donation
Who's cooking? Jamie Maholchic and friends
Charity? The Place

Please RSVP as soon as possible!



**A Scottish Meal Inspired by the book
Outlander by Diana Gabaldon**

Menu

Oat Bannocks and White Rolls with Honey Butter

Cock-a-leekie Soup

Cottage Pie or Vegetable Pie
topped with Neeps and Tatties

Cranachan and Shortbread



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.

September 4 - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 18:1-11
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
 Deuteronomy 30:15-20
 Psalm 1
 Philemon 1:1-21

September 11 - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
 Psalm 14
 Exodus 32:7-14
 Psalm 51:1-10
 1 Timothy 1:12-17
 Luke 15:1-10

September 18 - Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
 Psalm 79:1-9
 Amos 8:4-7
 Psalm 113
 1 Timothy 2:1-7
 Luke 16:1-13

September 25 - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
 Amos 6:1a, 4-7
 Psalm 146
 1 Timothy 6:6-19
 Luke 16:19-31

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Our UCC Congregation, along with our Deacons, has taken on the task of supporting The Impact Project. No physical labor is required from us. We are going to help feed the volunteer workers while they replace a roof for a local family on **September 17th**. Work at the site begins at 8:00 a.m. at **106 Railroad Avenue in Norwich**.

Food preparation will begin at 8:30 a.m. on **September 17th** in the UCC kitchen. We will be preparing coffee and breakfast treats early and sandwiches for lunch.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

I will make coffee at 8:30 a.m.

I will bake cookies and/or muffins.

I will make sandwiches at 10:00 a.m.

I will provide chips.

I will provide pickles.

I will loan large coffee urn/carafe/thermos.

I will loan large water coolers with ice.

I will transport coffee and treats to site.

I will transport lunch to site.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Please leave this form in church office or
call Jane Prime @ 336-3606

2016 Flu Clinics Coming to a Fire Station Near You!!!

Make A Shot Happen

M*A*S*H



The Chenango County Health Department and the Chenango County Area Agency on Aging are co-sponsoring Flu Clinics in various Firehouse locations throughout the County in October, for Chenango County residents only.



These Clinics are for people age 3 years old and up.
(Please—No children under age 3)

COST:

- ♦ For age 3-18 years—no charge
- ♦ For age 19 years and older **without** Medicare B—\$17 per person, payable at the time of vaccination. Cash or check made out to “Chenango County Area Agency on Aging”
- ♦ For age 19 years and older **with** Medicare B—no charge (must show your Medicare Card)
- ♦ Please Note: We cannot accept a Medicare Advantage Plan (such as Today's Options) as payment.

DATE/ TIME/ LOCATION:

October 13—Norwich Firehouse 6-8 pm
 October 20—Oxford Firehouse 5-7 pm
 October 25—Sherburne Firehouse 5-7pm
 November 3—South Otselic Firehouse 5-7 pm
 November 10—Afton Firehouse 5-7 pm



For more information or questions and to register for the Clinic that you wish to attend, please call 337-1660.



Visitors in July and August

Roland Alger	Mike McCollough
Judy Anderson	Alice Merlino
Steve Bliss, Norwich	Esta Polanco
Kenneth Bowie, Norwich	Cat Powell, England
Homer and Jan Burch, Norwich	Laura Price, North Pharsalia
Carole Carpenter	Deb Root
Edna Cash-Crewdson, Norwich	Doreen Rowe
Sandra Colton	Amy Ruth, Earlville
Joel Coons	Martha Ryan
Bernie Dye, Norwich	Sharon Ryan, Norwich
Joshua Dye	Deb Sanderson
Herman Ericksen	Michael Saunders
Jim and Sharon Everard, Norwich	Debra Sherman, Norwich
Pam Gilbert	Barbara Shurdon
Stephanie and Austin Gladulich, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Bob Smith
Elizabeth and William Gladulich, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania	Elsie Smith
Nancylee Gridley, Norwich	Pete Smith, Norwich
Barb and Gib Harrington, Norwich	Rev. David and Martha Spiegel, Norwich
Tina Herman	Delilah, Colton, Jack, Micah, Thea and Nicole Spiegel
Karol Hines	Allan and Lois Strong
Phyllis Jackson, Norwich	Olive Sturges
Dean and Rita Kissinger, Woodbridge, Virginia	Sally Supensky, Norwich
Beth Ann and Kevin Kozlowski, Port Washington, NY	Anne Tucker
Carolyn Larsson, Norwich	Lou Ungemach
Tom Livingston	Melanie Valencia
Dave and Kai Loomis	Wendy Van Ordern, Norwich
Doris Matott, Norwich	Lee Wilhelm, Norwich
	Laurel Wiltbank, Norwich
	Ming Xiu, China



Hymns of the Lukewarm Church

1. A Comfy Mattress Is Our God
2. Joyful, Joyful, We Kinda Like Thee
3. Above Average is Thy Faithfulness
4. Lord, Keep Us Loosely Connected to Your Word
5. All Hail the Influence of Jesus' Name
6. My Hope is Built on Nothing Much
7. Amazing Grace, How Interesting the Sound
8. My Faith Looks Around for Thee
9. Be Thou My Hobby
10. O God, Our Enabler in Ages Past
11. Blest Be the Tie That Doesn't Cramp My Style
12. Oh, for a Couple of Tongues to Sing
13. He's Quite a Bit to Me
14. Oh, How I Like Jesus
15. I Lay My Inappropriate Behaviors on Jesus
16. Pillow of Ages, Fluffed for Me
17. I Surrender Some
18. Praise God from Whom All Affirmations Flow
19. I'm Fairly Certain That My Redeemer Lives
20. Self-Esteem to the World! The Lord is Come
21. Sit Up, Sit Up for Jesus
22. Special, Special, Special
23. Spirit of the Living God, Fall Somewhere Near Me
24. Stick Nearby, It's Getting Dark Outside
25. Take My Life and Let Me Be
26. There is Scattered Cloudiness in My Soul Today
27. There Shall be Sprinkles of Blessings
28. What an Acquaintance We Have in Jesus
29. When Peace, Like a Trickle...
30. When the Saints Go Sneaking In
31. Where He Leads Me, I Will Consider Following
32. God of Taste, and God of Stories
33. Lift Every Voice and Intellectualize

LOL



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:

Steve and Donna Craig for the death of Steve's father,
Peter Craig on July 14, 2016.



Monday Evening Musical Club
presents

Helen Virecci-Fana, pianist

Monday, September 12 at 7:30 p.m.

In our Nave

Admission is free.

Offering taken to benefit scholarship fund.

Public welcome.



Cub Scout Pack at UCC

The Boy Scouts of America are happy to announce we will be starting up a new Cub Scout pack right here at the United Church of Christ this fall. We will be having an introductory meeting in late September or early October and welcome any boys in grades 1-5 who wish to join. We are also looking for adults who would be willing to help out as we get the pack started. Information will be passed along to the church as the date gets closer. If you have any questions or know of any boy who may be interested, or are an adult willing to help out please speak to Christian Averill. He can be reached at Christian.Averill@scouting.org or 518-729-6862.

*Happy
Birthday*

SEPTEMBER

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).

5	Chad Conant	11	Samantha Gage
7	Burt Bridge		David Varela
	Maxine Gage	20	Annetta Dunkle
	Kassidy Miller		Stacy Gage
8	Joan Griffith	22	Karley Miller
	Janet Johnson		Pat Burke
	Bob Oehme	23	Arlene Wade
9	Jay Conant	24	Henry Carpenter
10	John Kolb	25	Gary Sprout
	David Spiegel		

UCC NEWS

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



DATED MATERIAL: Please Deliver Promptly.
This issue mailed 09/09/2016.

STANDARD A
PERMIT 24
NORWICH NY 13815

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 Ferguson**