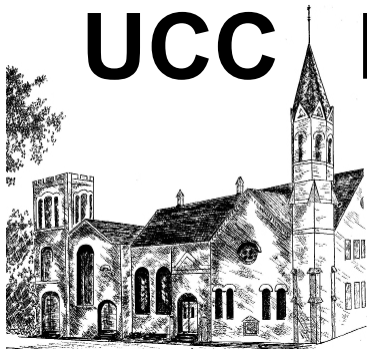


# UCC NEWS



## October 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

## Church Budget



**Annual Budget Information Meeting**  
**Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**After the Worship Service**

---

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)

facebook

visit our facebook page

# From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,  
Happy Christmas!

No. Wait. It's too early for that. And even saying "Happy Christmas" before December the 24<sup>th</sup> is not particularly appropriate. In fact, I recommend you wait until the 25<sup>th</sup> to say "Happy Christmas." After all, just saying "Happy Christmas" totally ignores the Church Season of Advent as if it did not even exist.

Further, in the church Christmas is not just one day as some in the secular world would have it. Christmas is a season— a short season— just 12 days— but who among us has not heard of the 12 days of Christmas? So, the Christmas season lasts until the Epiphany, January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Additionally, the time from Epiphany until the Feast of the Baptism of the Christ can also be included as part of the Christmas season. The Epiphany is a fixed date, January 6<sup>th</sup>, and the Baptism of the Christ is celebrated on the octave day of Epiphany, the 13<sup>th</sup>.

But the cultural take on Christmas is so predominant in our minds it leaves little room for the *reality* of the *Christian* story of Christmas. I was recently reminded of the enormous cultural influence on the Christian Christmas story because of something I was doing in the course of my regular work concerning Advent and Christmas right now. Pastors and church musicians, you see, need to work on Advent and Christmas services early or we will never be ready when the seasons are on our doorstep.

In this church most of the time we do our own bulletin covers in part because we have talented members who are photographers and artists. They supply the artwork. And Cheri Willard, our Parish Coordinator, can make our computers do back flips, so we digitize these works of art for our bulletin covers.

That having been said, I still check out catalogues for seasonal covers. And it came to pass that I was looking at the seasonal bulletin covers for Advent and Christmas to see if any were useable. "To see if any are useable" is the key term here.

As I am sure you know, we tend to use inclusive language here. That knocks out any pre-printed cover with a banner

that inappropriately uses masculine gender.

But then there is a larger concern. There were bunches of covers which depicted a star and a manger scene. Others had outlines of figures, some clearly meant to be Mary and Joseph, a donkey, a star. Others had the *Magi* around a manger. Other had the *Magi*, a manger and angels who were clearly singing. All of these are inappropriate.

Why? Because they mix up the Gospel of Luke and the Gospel of Matthew and mush them together, as if they were one. These two Gospels contain very different stories written at different times to different audiences.

The next time you pick up your Bible, please read the first two chapters of Matthew. You will find a star. You will find the *Magi*. You will find Herod, priests. But you will find no manger.

In secular culture the *Magi* are sometimes called the “Three Wise Men, despite the fact that there is no reference to either their number or gender in Scripture. Further, based on the story being told in Matthew it seems pretty clear the *Magi* would have arrived in Bethlehem quite a bit after the birth of the Messiah. While nothing is stated directly, it’s likely Jesus was already a toddler.

Also, please note: out of the four Gospels there are only two Nativity stories. That’s because it seems unlikely the birth of the Messiah was as important to the culture when the New Testament was recorded as it does to our culture today. Now, once you have looked at Matthew, please turn to Luke.

Start at Luke 1:1 and read through Luke 2:40. You will not find any star. You will not find any *Magi*. You will find the lowly and the outcast, the shepherds. In Biblical times they would have been lowly and outcast and the birth is announced to them.

By the way, read the words of the angels carefully. It does not say they sing anything. It does say the angels speak the words, “Glory to God.” But nowhere does it say the angels sing. To be clear, I think it’s probable the angels sing. But that’s not what’s written in Scripture.

So, where does all this come from— *Magi* at the manger, a star, singing angels, etc., etc., etc. These things are not Biblical ideas. These are not found in Scripture. These are not addressed in Christian story, the Biblical story.

These are found only in our cultural and its icons. Yes, we take great comfort in what the cultural story says. Personally, I take greater comfort in what the Christian story says, in what Scripture actually says.

That leaves the obvious question. If you take the two nativity stories and separate them (which is the way they were meant to be considered), what is being conveyed?

I want to suggest the Christmas stories convey a singular message. God is breaking into the world. God stands with us. In Jesus, the Messiah, God invites us to see new ways, new life, new freedom, new hope, new peace, new love, new joy for God *is* with us. God and the covenant of God is present with us on our journey.

So, what can I say? See you in church where we reach out to one another in love and support once another in confidence that the covenant God offers is real and that God is near.

In Faith,



Joe

## Our Daily Bread Food Pantry

**Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> - Food Sunday** - The following are items the food pantry has requested. Place your donations in the basket in front of the communion table.

**SOUPS (other than chicken noodle or cream of chicken), FRESH PRODUCE, TEA, COFFEE**

### **Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> - Paper Products Sunday**

Bring in personal care products and paper goods for donation to the Food Pantry. (Or diapers for donation to First Baptist Church for their giveaway.) A basket will be available at the rear of the Nave.

### **Monetary donations are always welcome.**

Checks can be made out to Our Daily Bread Food Pantry and placed in the offering plate.

# Christian Enlistment

Dear Friends,

This year, I have the privilege of heading up our Christian Enlistment Campaign. As you know, Al Sawyer is stepping down from this position. Al, over several years, has done a wonderful job as head of the Christian Enlistment Campaign and Committee. We owe him our thanks.

The Christian Enlistment Campaign consists of asking you to pledge financial support to UCC Norwich for 2017. We ask that you pray and think about what amount you can pledge for 2017. Try to stretch yourself, remembering how UCC Norwich supports all of us.

Last year, approximately \$44,000 was pledged. As customary, all of the funds raised have been used to support local needs and wider needs. Pledge income is not used for staff expense, daily maintenance, or administration of church programs.

Examples of local mission and support include The Place, Opportunities for Chenango, Thanksgiving Baskets, Head Start, and many others.

Examples of our church's wider mission and support include the Susquehanna Association, the New York Conference, Doctors without Borders, Literacy Volunteers of America and others.

Thus, your pledge and support have a direct impact on people.

The amount pledged by the congregation for 2016 was higher than the pledges made for 2015. We would ask that you continue your growing generosity and make 2017 an even better year. Pledge Sunday is November 13, 2016. All pledges should be received no later than December 11, 2016.

Thank you for your support.

Peace be with you,

Jack Brereton

Chair

Christian Enlistment Campaign Committee



## Historian Notes

by Patricia Evans, Church Historian

### Rev. John Van Epps

John C. Van Epps was born in Syracuse, June 6, 1948. He graduated as valedictorian of his class at Phoenix High School in 1966. John then graduated Phi Beta Kappa, from Colgate University cum laude 1970. The summer of 1972 he worked in Clinical Pastoral Education at Binghamton State Hospital, Binghamton, NY. Then in 1973 John graduated from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School with a Master of Divinity.

Van Epps then furthered his education with a family counseling seminar May 1976 and a program of family counseling techniques and ministries. He also completed Biblical Preaching Seminars in September of 1977 and June of 1978.

Rev. Van Epps was ordained June 17, 1973 by the Oneida Association of the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ and became Pastor of the Trinity United Church of Christ, Rome, NY on August 1, 1973. Rev Van Epps was active in the Oneida Association, of the New York Conference, holding numerous positions. He was active in the Rome community and was a Rotarian.

After the resignation of the Rev Donald Esslinger who had accepted a call to Bethany United Church of Christ in Bethlehem, PA, the process of finding a new minister for UCC Norwich began. In the fall of 1978 the pastoral search committee was successful in finding Rev. John Van Epps, who had served for five years in Rome NY. Rev. Epps started his new positon on Jan 1, 1979 as the 31<sup>st</sup> minister.

In the spring of 1982 the Rev. Van Epps announced his engagement to Belinda Fiorilli. Belinda, an ordained pastor in the United Church of Christ, was at that point serving as the Associate Pastor at the First Congregational Church in Ithaca. The wedding setting was The United Church of Christ

of Norwich, NY.

The celebration of the marriage of the Reverend Belinda Ann Fiorilli and Reverend John Charles Van Epps happened on June 26, 1982. Belinda was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Fiorilli of Willoughby, Ohio, and John, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Harold Van Epps of Phoenix, NY. The service was performed by the Reverend Dr. Judith Hjorth, Associate Conference Minister for the Upstate Region of the New York Conference. Hence, this church was in her area. (Editor's note: it's small world. Judy retired in the Seattle area and was already at and lived in the neighborhood when our own Bob and Martha O'Keefe arrived for retirement.)

May 17, 1987, Rev Van Epps resigned and his offered his last sermon was titled "Greater Works Than These." The sermon mentions the first time an outside group used the church on a regular basis was arranged before he came. That was the Gathering Place. It was hoped to be temporary, but that turned out to be nine years. Others also started to use the building: the Community Nursery School, the Family Counseling Ministry, Head Start, Planned Parenthood, Friends of Hospice, the Nuclear Freeze, Recitals and others.

Renovations were needed and after they were complete the church was used more and not only by church groups but the community.

Rev Van Epps spoke of the church as a "living stone of the people involved." Also that we are living stones, "personally, as we strive to put our faith into practice, as we get involved personally in the community." His concern was that members were involved in the community but not the church. Over time the church became more involved in the community. Some of the programs are still in existence: the ecumenical Food Pantry, the Thanksgiving baskets and The Place. We continue to provide financial support and continue to find ways to become personally involved, thus "putting our faith into practice, because both go hand in hand."

"In the text today there is the phrase – 'you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people.' We are the church together as one body of many equal parts. One

of the hallmarks of our church here, for better or worse, is our free-flow, horizontal, congregational style. There are a variety of groups and programs meeting: there are a variety of boards and committees (we have one hundred different elected positions in our church). It's almost an overwhelming opportunity for involvement by any and all."

"Yet we should not rest on our laurels, but rather seek to do greater works than these as Jesus said to his disciples – to move into new and different directions."

The Rev Van Epps resigned after eight and one-half years to take a call with Belinda as co-pastors of the Rocky Hill Congregational Church in Connecticut. They were to share equally the preaching and worship. Belinda had the primary responsibility of parish care and support groups, John was responsible for Christian education, thus enabling him the opportunity to pursue that area of interest.

Rev John Van Epps left Norwich June 16 for that new position In CT to start July 1, 1987. The Farewell Dinner Party for John and Belinda was June 13. They were given a monetary gift to use toward furnishing their new home.



## Reminder

Don't forget to check out the newest "These Days" Devotional available on the table in the hallway. Our own **Lynn Olcott** authored the entries for **November 6 - 12**. You might remember we published Lynn's columns in our newsletter for many years.



# Director of Children and Youth Ministries




by Linda L. Oehme




Rally Day was a great success. We kicked off the new Church School year with our new curriculum, *The Whole People of God*. This curriculum inspires children from 3-12. Currently we are learning about the calling of Jeremiah and his God-centered choices. We meet most Sundays at 8:30 a.m. Come and see what it is all about. Also there is Adult Bible Study most Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and most Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. We're never too old to learn and refresh our faith.

October 2<sup>nd</sup> will mark a truly Intergenerational Worship, people of all ages will participate in this new approach to worship. "Timothy" will make an appearance.

As Unit 1's title implies, "Remembering Tomorrow," stay tuned to the preparations for the "Thanksgiving Basket" Project and the new and improved "Christmas Box" Project. These are ways you can be involved with church beyond its doors. More details to follow in November and December issues of this newsletter. Watch in the bulletins for more opportunities for ministry.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
<h1>October 2016</h1>			
<p>2 8:30 a.m. Church School 9: 15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Communion/Worship <i>Food Donation Sunday. See p. 4</i> 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 11:30 a.m. Confirmation Meeting 4:00 p.m. SAME Meeting 7:00 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah, Norwich Jewish Center</p>	<p>3 5:30 p.m. K. Given, Founders' Rm. 6:00 p.m Cub Scouts Information Night, Perry Browne School 7:30 p.m. Music Club - See p.17.</p>	<p>4 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting 6:30 p.m. TNT Quilters</p> 	<p>5 9:30 a 10:00 Coun 2:00 p 2:30 p 3:00 p 6:00 p 7:00 p</p>
<p>9 8:30 a.m. Church School 9: 15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir</p>	<p>10 <i>Columbus Day</i> <b>Church Office Closed</b> 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30 p.m. K. Given, Founders ' Rm.</p>	<p>11 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting 6:30 p.m. TNT Quilters 6:30 p.m. Deacon's Mtg.</p>	<p>12 9:30 a Autho 9:30 a 2:00 p 2:30 p 3:00 p 6:00 p 7:00 p</p>
<p>16 8:30 a.m. Church School 9: 15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship <i>Paper Products Sunday. See p. 4</i> 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 3:00 p.m. Pastor Joe shares the Word at Chenango Valley Home 7:00 p.m. Sukkot Service, Norwich Jewish Center</p>	<p>17 5:30 p.m. K. Given, Founders ' Rm. 7:00 p.m .Trustees Mtg.</p>	<p>18 9:00 a.m. Headstart Policy Council 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting 6:30 p.m. TNT Quilters 6:00 NHS Golf Team Banquet, Founders' Rm.</p>	<p>19 9:30 a 2:00 p 2:30 p 3:00 p 6:00 p 7:00 p Comm</p>
<p>23 8:30 a.m. Church School 9: 15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir</p>	<p>24 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30 p.m. K. Given, Founders' Rm.</p>	<p>25 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting 6:00 p.m .TNT Quilters</p>	<p>26 9:30 a 2:00 p 2:30 p 3:00 p 6:00 p 7:00 p</p>
<p>30 8:30 a.m. Church School 9: 15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:00 a.m. Budget Info. Meeting 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir</p>	<p>31 <i>Halloween</i></p> 		

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1 5:00 p.m. Roast Pork Dinner at FBC. See p. 16</p>
<p>9 a.m. Home Bureau 9 a.m. Norwich Interfaith 10 a.m. Bible 10 p.m. K. Given 10 p.m. A. Humer, Nave 10 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs 10 p.m. Bible Study 11 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>6 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 12:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs 5:00 p.m. Hospice Service of Remembrance, Nave</p>	<p>7 9:00 a.m. Tax Training, Founders' Rm.</p> <div data-bbox="540 435 912 521" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p>Rummage and Bake Sale at FBC. See p. 16</p> </div>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 a.m. Committee on Authorized Ministry, Homer 9 a.m. Home Bureau 10 p.m. K. Given 10 p.m. A. Humer, Nave 10 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs 10 p.m. Bible Study 11 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>13 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 11:00 a.m. Food Pantry Board Mtg. 12:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs 6:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Founders' Rm.</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 1:00 p.m. Emmons/Burnside Wedding, Afton</p> 
<p>9 a.m. Home Bureau 10 p.m. K. Given 10 p.m. A. Humer, Nave 10 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs 10 p.m. Bible Study 11 p.m. Choir 11 p.m. Democratic Committee, Founders' Rm.</p>	<p>20 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 12:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs 6:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group, Founders' Rm. 7:00 p.m. Executive Council Mtg.</p>	<p>21</p> 	<p>22</p>
<p>9 a.m. Home Bureau 10 p.m. K. Given 10 p.m. A. Humer, Nave 10 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs 10 p.m. Bible Study 11 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>27 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 12:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs</p>	<p>28 9:00 a.m. Collate and Mail November newsletter</p>	<p>29 6:00 p.m. Vine &amp; Fig Tree Supper Club</p> 

# **Boundaries**

**Discussion and Interactive Workshop**

**by Pastor Diane Wheatley**

**Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**Christ Lutheran Church, 94 N. Broad Street, Norwich**

**Free, lunch and snacks will be provided.**

**(You have the option to purchase a workbook for \$10.)**

**RSVP to Christ Lutheran at 334-3431**

Pastor Wheatley has been a parish pastor for 31 years and has found that most conflicts in the church communities as well as in business, committee work, and volunteer activities come from a lack of understanding about healthy boundaries. As she faced conflicts and tensions in her ministries she researched and developed this workshop for her ELCA church communities.

Boundaries are not just for the separation of countries and states, or defining which section of the lawn is yours to mow and not your neighbors. We place boundaries on class times, when one must retire, length of play, how long one may serve in a position, on what or with whom we will share, use of medicines, benefits for employees, and use of supplies. Boundaries may be made of a line or wall we can see, laws we can read, or ideas and customs that cannot be seen.

Very importantly boundaries facilitate cooperation and reduce conflict. They lay a foundation for planning, policies, and negotiation. Pastor Wheatley will be presenting the sections of her workshop that will be of use to everyone, and will not be including the sections that are necessary for pastors. This workshop was for many of us an “eye-opening” and very useful experience, and we would like to make it possible for you to share in the understanding too!

Presented by the Shared Ministry Committee of St. Luke’s, Sidney and CELC, Norwich

# Look in the Mailbox

Dear Friends,

Your faithful gifts make a difference! Your giving makes it possible for students from all walks of life prepare to lead the church of the future. As pastors, chaplains or other ministry leaders, what they learn at Lancaster Seminary will equip them to be instruments of “God’s redemptive and liberating work so that all creation might flourish.” Your generosity enables them to serve God and God’s people in a diverse and dynamic world.

This past May, twenty-eight students received degrees or certificates at Lancaster Seminary’s commencement. One of them, Master of Divinity graduate Merle Malone, came to the seminary from St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands. She speaks movingly of how her study empowers her to interpret the Bible effectively—an experience shared by many of our students that all will apply to their future ministries. We depend on you to help us provide such opportunities to our students to learn and grown spiritually.

Yes, you make a difference! We deeply appreciate your most recent gift. We are so grateful to be your partner in ministry. Together, we make a difference!

Rev. Paul Eyer

Director of Alumni/ae and Church Relations

Dear UCC,

I would like to say thank you for your help on the pack-n-play for my daughter’s baby girl. I was a wonderful blessing. Both of us would like to say thank you very much.

[names withheld to preserve privacy]

Dear UCC,

I just wanted to take the time and thank you for the very generous scholarship that you rewarded me with. It is greatly appreciated and will play a major role for me moving forward at Methodist University.

Corey Johnson

To our friends at UCC,

Thank you for allowing us to use your kitchen to prepare meals for our guest artists, judges and members! It was the perfect location to make our job successful.

Sincerely grateful,

Lynn Parker, Hospitality Committee,  
 Colorscape Chenango Arts Festival, Inc.



## Thanksgiving Baskets

Our church coordinates this project on behalf of other participating Norwich area churches, which last year helped 453 families with their Thanksgiving dinners. Of that number, our church put together 200 boxes full of many of the fixings: turkey, carrots, onions, potatoes, stuffing mix, apples, butter, rolls.

### **What We Need From You to Make This a Successful Project:**

#### **Canned Soup, Vegetables, Stuffing Mix**

Bring in anytime on or before November 7<sup>th</sup>

**Money** to help purchase food in bulk. Bring to the church office or put in the offering plate. Just be sure you mark it for Thanksgiving Boxes.

**Volunteers** Talk to Linda Oehme (336-7716).

**Please note: We DO NOT Need Plastic Grocery Bags**

For more information, call Linda Oehme at 336-7716.

# 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.

## **October 2 - Proper 22 (27) - 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Lamentations 1:1-6 & Lamentations 3:19-26 or Psalm 137 or  
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 & Psalm 37:1-9  
2 Timothy 1:1-14  
Luke 17:5-10

## **October 9 - Proper 23 (28)- 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 & Psalm 66:1-12 or  
2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c & Psalm 111  
2 Timothy 2:8-15  
Luke 17:11-19

## **October 16 - Proper 24 (29) - 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 31:27-34 & Psalm 119:97-104 or  
Genesis 32:22-31 & Psalm 121  
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5  
Luke 18:1-8

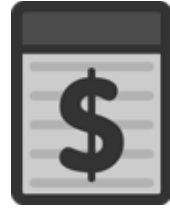
## **October 23 - Proper 25 (30) - 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Joel 2:23-32 & Psalm 65 or  
Sirach 35:12-17 or Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 & Psalm 84:1-7  
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18  
Luke 18:9-14

## **October 30 - Proper 26 (31) - 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 & Psalm 119:137-144 or  
Isaiah 1:10-18 & Psalm 32:1-7  
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12  
Luke 19:1-10

## 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.

## Volunteers Needed

Chenango County Habitat for Humanity is currently building an 884 square foot, 2 bedroom, 1 bath home in Sherburne. Volunteers are needed - call 334-7492.

### First Baptist Church Events

10 West Park Place, Norwich NY

#### Roast Pork Dinner

**Saturday October 1st - 5 - 7 p.m.**

*dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, winter squash  
cole slaw, applesauce, rolls, cakes*

**Adults \$10, 5-12 \$5, under 5 free**

(Delivery available. Call the church 336-2509.

On Saturday call 316-9671.)

#### Rummage and Bake Sale

**Friday October 7th 4 - 7 p.m.**

**Saturday October 8th, 9a.m. - 12 p.m.**



Monday Evening Musical Club  
presents

## Big Band Sounds

Directed by Red Raville

Monday, October 3 at 7:30 p.m.

In our Nave

Admission is free.

Offering taken to benefit scholarship fund.

Public welcome. Refreshments following.

### Cub Scouts Information and Registration

Boys in Grades 1 - 5

Monday, October 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

Perry Browne School Auditorium

For information call: 518-729-6861.

## VINE AND FIG TREE

Supper Club

*Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup>*

*6:00 p.m.*

*In the Founders' Room*



# 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.



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

### **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 to Our Church in September

Melissa Burnside, Norwich

Alex Hazard

Katie Izzo, Norwich

DJ Smith



## *Happy Birthday*

These are the birthdays of members and friends of our church family. If you know someone on the list who's having a birthday, feel free to send that person a card. Even if you don't know anyone on the list, feel free to send any celebrant a card. More importantly, strive to hold each of these people up in prayer on the anniversary of their birth. Please call the church office with additions or corrections (334-3434).

## OCTOBER

3	Leona Tyler	16	Tim Burgher
5	Carol Sands		Justin Posner
6	Pat Evans	17	Kristin Metz Miller
	William Kolb	19	Paul Flores
8	Shea Breese	20	Debra Phelps
9	Josiah Tyler	21	Jennifer Mallozzi
10	Kyle Conant	23	Mary Musson
11	Jessie Brewer	24	Sarah Adams
	Carol Nassar	26	David Hall
		28	Doris Graves

# UCC NEWS

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



DATED MATERIAL: Please Deliver Promptly.  
This issue mailed 09/30/2016.

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**