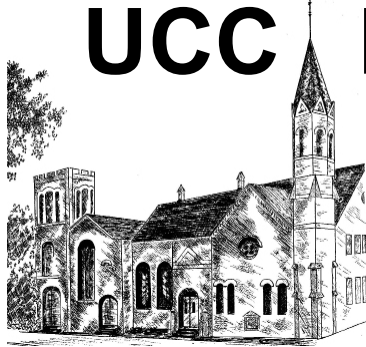


UCC NEWS



April 2017

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



Easter Sunday

April 16th

Holy Week Schedule on page 10.

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

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From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

What follows is something I said (used with the attribution indicated) in a recent sermon.

Maren Tirabassi is a United Church of Christ pastor and a well known poet. She occasionally posts poems of other poets on her web site. This poem posted by Maren is by Katherine Burgess. The poem is described as an evening prayer and described also as a prayer for Lent. It is based on the Beatitudes.

I bless the emptiness in our hearts,
 Because that leaves a space for God to enter in.
 I bless the things in us that touch other people gently,
 Because gentleness is the way to reach another.
 I bless the sadness that sometimes overwhelms us,
 Because that will lead others to comfort us.
 I bless our yearning for the truth,
 Because it can be satisfied in Jesus, the Christ.
 I bless the mercy and forgiveness that we show others,
 Because it reflects God's mercy and forgiveness
 That is extended to us every single day.
 I bless the childlike purity in all of our hearts,
 For we must become like little children
 To see the face of God.
 I bless you when you are a peacemaker
 And grant you God's peace which passes all
 understanding.
 I bless you in a time of persecution,
 For Jesus was... persecuted.
 And you will be with Jesus in the dominion of heaven.
 I bless us with a good sleep
 And a peaceful rest
 So that tomorrow
 We can continue
 With God's work.
 Amen.

I followed that up by saying this:

Lent, you see, is not about sacrifice of any kind and not about broken-ness of any kind. We may not be perfect but we are not broken. Christ fixed everything that needed to be fixed so we are not broken. We are all in working order. And the work we need to be about is the work of God.

And what is the work of God? These words and ideas are also from the poem by Katherine Burgess and very much address what we need to do, the work we need to do, in the Season of Lent.

Leave a space for God to enter in. Be gentle. Have a yearning for the truth. Show others mercy and forgiveness.

Seek and see the face of God. Make peace, because the peace of God does pass all understanding.

Everything in that list addresses the work of God. And nothing in that list is about rules.

This is about living out from the law, living out from the rules. And that is, perhaps, both the real work and the real challenge of Lent: doing the work of God by living out from the law.

Last, those of you who have attended a service of worship where I offered leadership know that, just before the Benediction, I offer a closing comment. This is the comment I offered at the service on that day.

A clergy colleague recently said if you really, really, really want to give something up for Lent you can. Give up homophobia, racism, fear, sexism, pride, greed, worry, doubt, violence of all kinds— my friend's list went on and on. Yes, there is a lot we can give up, from which we might and should abstain. I am sure you can create your own list. But let's think about and concentrate on what we can do because I think there is a lot we can do.

A final thought: we in the church are not called to be successful. We are called to do the work and the will of God.

Some might think of that as a tall order. After all, our society tells us life is all about success. Our society tells us life is not about how we get there, whatever way we get there. Our society tells us life is just and only about success. I respectfully disagree. It *is* about how you play the game.

And, by the way, see you in church where the game being played is seeking and doing the work and the will of God.

In Faith,



Joe Connolly



Paper Products Sunday - April 23

Bring in paper products and personal care items (razors, toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo, soap, feminine products) for donation to Our Daily Bread Food Pantry. A basket will be available at the back of the Nave for your donations. Monetary donations made out to Our Daily Bread can be placed in the offering plate.



Historian Notes

by Patricia Evans, Church Historian

Rev. Dr. Charles A. Maxfield served as Interim Pastor of the United Church of Christ, Norwich, NY from 1995 to 1996. He was a 1966 graduate of Pennsylvania State University with a B.A. He then attended Lancaster Theological Seminary graduating in 1970 with a M.Div., on to Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, earning a Th.M. in 1991. He then earned his Ph.D. in 1995 from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia.

He has taught at numerous Colleges and Universities: Instructor and Teaching Assistant at Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, VA, 1993-1994. Then 2005-06 served as Adjunct Faculty at Broome Community College, Binghamton, NY. Also Adjunct Faculty at the History Department of SUNY-Cortland, Cortland, NY from 2002-08 and Adjunct Faculty at DeSales University, Center Valley, PA. Rev. Maxfield was also Adjunct Faculty in 2009 and 2010 at Eastern University, Saint David's PA. Then in 2012 he was Adjunct Faculty at Esperanza College, Philadelphia, PA.

Rev. Maxfield has also taught in many other settings: 1970-present at every age level: Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation Class, Adult Study Groups, teacher training and others as needed. In 1978-83 and 1995 he supervised seminary students. Then adjunct faculty and T.E.E. Instructor at Cook College and Theological School. From 1980 to 1986 he was the Director of Lay Ministry Training for the Missouri Valley Association of North Dakota Conference and taught most of the courses.

In 1995-2004 he was the Director of Studies, Lay Ministry Program of the New York Conference of the UCC. In 1997 and 1999 he served at Hartwick Seminary Summer Institute of Theology, Oneonta, NY. Rev. Maxfield then was Chair of

Lay Studies Committee, Iroquois Association, of the American Baptist Churches.

He then served as a faculty member of the New York School of Ministry, Syracuse, NY from 2005 to 2008. Rev. Maxfield was also an Instructor at the AP Academy of North Wales, PA. He also served as Instructor, Lay Ministry in the 21st Century, Tri-Penn Conference, UCC, Wernersville, PA. teaching courses on Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships; God Talk; Church History.

Rev. Maxfield's pastoral experience includes:

- 2011- Pastor, Saint Pauls United Church of Christ, Fort Washington, PA
- 2009-2011 Interim Pastor, Trinity Christian UCC, Skippack, PA
- 2009-Interim Pastor, St. James UCC, Havertown, PA
- 2008-2009 Stated Supply preacher, East Vincent and Royersford UCC, PA
- 2008-Interim Executive Director of Cortland County Council of Churches and Protestant Campus Minister SUNY-Cortland, Cortland, NY
- 2006–07 Stated Supply preacher, Coventryville Congregational Church, UCC, Coventry, NY
- 1996-2001 Co-pastor, United Community Church, Cortland, NY
- 1995-96 Interim Pastor, Norwich United Church of Christ, Norwich, NY
- 1989-90 Interim Pastor, First Union Church, Williston, ND
- 1986-89 Pastor, Memorial Congregational Church, Parshall, ND
- 1980-86 Pastor-Coordinator, Sioux Parish (Flasher, Carson, Solen, Shields, Ft. Yates, ND
- 1977-80 Minister of Education, Christ Church United in Lowell, MA
- 1973-77 Pastor, United Church of Madrid, NY
- 1970-73 Pastor, Union Congregational Church, York Beach, ME

Publications by Rev. Maxfield:

- *A Pilgrim People: A History of the United Church of Christ and Its Antecedents*. Lansdale, PA: Maxfield Books, 2005; 2d printing 2008.
- “The 1845 Organic Sin Debate: Slavery, Sin, and the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.” In *North American Missions, 1810-1914: Theology, Theory and Policy*, ed. Wilbert R. Shenk, 86-115. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.
- “The Legacy of Jeremiah Evarts,” *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 22:4 (Oct 1998):172-75.
- *How Church Women’s Groups Got Started: A Conversation with Women of Vision, Faith and Action*. Self-published, 1997
- Review of *Missionary Conquest* by George Tinker. *Interpretation* 50 (1996):104.
- “‘Six Pillars of Peace’ Vision Still Valid,” *United Church News* 11 (Sept. 1995): 2.
- “Presbyterian Pioneers: The Laity, Salmon Giddings, and the Presbytery of Missouri,” *American Presbyterians: Journal of Presbyterian History* 69 (1991): 1-10. [co-author].
- *Roots and Branches: The Story of the Christian Family*. Cook College and Theological School, Tempe, AZ, 1989.



**Deadline to apply
is April 15th.**

**Applications are available on the website at
<www.uccnorwichny.org>
or by calling the church office at 334-3434.**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 2017						1 <i>April Fool's Day</i>
2 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Communion/Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir	3 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl 4:00 p.m. Tutoring 5:30 p.m. K. Given, Founders' Rm. 7:30 a.m. Music Club Concert	4 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 10:00 a.m. Norwich Interfaith Council Mtg. 1:00 p.m. TNT Quilters	5 12:00 p.m. Bible Study at Broad St. UMC 2:30 p.m. A. Humer, Founders' Rm. 3:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave	6 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 12:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs	7 	8
9 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Blessing of the Palms, Nave 10:15 p.m. Process to BSUMC 10:30 a.m. Service continues at BSUMC 3:00 p.m. Pastor Joe at Chenango Vly. Home	10 4:00 p.m. Tutoring 5:30 p.m. K. Given, Founders' Rm. 	11 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 1:00 p.m. TNT Quilters 6:00 p.m. Passover Seder at Norwich Jewish Ctr.	12 12:00 p.m. Bible Study at Emmanuel Episcopal 2:30 p.m. A. Humer, Founders' Rm. 3:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave	13 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 12:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs 6:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Founders' Rm. 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday service, First Baptist Church	14 <i>Good Friday</i> 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service, Nave	15 <i>Holy Saturday</i> 
16 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service, Courthouse steps 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Celebration of the Resurrection, Nave 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	17 Church Office Closed 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:00 p.m. Tutoring 5:30 p.m. K. Given, Founders' Rm. 7:00 p.m. Executive Council Mtg., Chapel	18 9:00 a.m. Head Start Policy Council, Founders' Rm. 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 1:00 p.m. TNT Quilters	19 9:30 a.m. Committee on Authorized Ministry 2:30 p.m. General Ministry Team. 2:30 p.m. A. Humer, Founders' Rm. 3:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave 7:00 p.m. Democratic Committee, Founders' Rm.	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. Trustees Mtg.	21	22 
23 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship <i>Paper Products Sunday</i> 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir	24 4:00 p.m. Tutoring 5:30 p.m. K. Given, Founders' Rm.	25 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 11:30 a.m. Chenango Valley Home Volunteers Luncheon 1:00 p.m. TNT Quilters	26 2:30 p.m. A. Humer, Founders' Rm. 3:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave	27 10:00 a.m. Tutoring 12:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs	28	29 Susquehanna Association Meeting, McLean
30 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						

Thank You Letter

Dear Pastor Connolly, members of the Bell Choir,
Mary Williams and Bob Oehme,

The residents of Chenango Valley Home are filled with gratitude from the wonderful gesture of bringing the bell choir and the congregation to their home. It truly gave them a sense of being part of the community. They are still talking about it and hoping you will come again next year. Your thoughtfulness was enormously appreciated.

God Bless,
Rose Laughlin and
the residents of Chenango Valley Home

Holy Week

April 9 — Palm Sunday — 10:00 a.m.

Our Traditional Palm Sunday Service of Worship with the Baptists, the Methodists and the Lutherans. A Blessing of the Palms here at UCC at 10:00 a.m. followed by a procession to the First Baptist Church for prayer and on to the Broad St. United Methodist Church for the rest of the service starting no earlier than 10:30 a.m.

April 12 — Lent Bible Study — 12:00 p.m.

at Emmanuel Episcopal Church

April 13 — Maundy Thursday — 7:00 p.m.

Service at the First Baptist Church with UCC and Broad St. United Methodist Church

April 14 — Good Friday — 7:00 p.m.

Service at the UCC with Broad St. UMC and First Baptist.

April 16 — Easter Sunday — 7:00 a.m.

Norwich Interfaith Council "Sunrise Service" on the Courthouse steps. Breakfast follows at the Baptist Church.

April 16 — Easter Sunday — 10:00 a.m.

Celebration of the Resurrection in our Nave with anthems and instrumentalists.

Director of Children and Youth Ministries

Linda L. Oehme

On April 16th, Easter Sunday, the Church School will begin the 6th and final Unit in the Whole People of God entitled “Fresh Winds Blowing” before we break for summer. Easter is not just a day but a whole season of celebrating. After 40 days of Lent in preparation and anticipation, the Easter season begins with celebrating the resurrection on Easter Sunday. We gather to celebrate the joy of God’s new life, the vindication of Jesus’ ministry, and the new community that was called into being by this astonishing event.

Easter lasts for 50 days, and so we name the Sundays in the season as Sundays of Easter, rather than Sundays after Easter. For 50 days we gather to:

- hear stories of the risen Christ,
- be revitalized by remembering the growth and the struggles of the early church,
- reflect, again, on the impact this joyous news has on our lives and our life together.

Hence, such an all-embracing task needs a full season of celebration.

The gospel stories that we read in this season at first, highlight appearances of the risen Christ, and then move to passages from John’s gospel that are intended to help us reflect on the Spirit-filled life of the church. Throughout all of this the winds of the Spirit blow hope, passion and exhilaration through the church then and now.

The Easter season closes with the feast of Pentecost, at which we recognize and give thanks for God’s gift of the Spirit to the church. The name for this feast comes from the Greek words for *fifty*, which was the name for the Jewish Festival of Weeks, a harvest festival that was celebrated 50 days after Passover. Other New Testament authors describe the gift in different ways, but all are agreed on this:

Jesus is risen, and
God is at work among us and in the world
with a power that is relentless and unstoppable.

Also, at the same time, the Adult Bible Study meets most Sundays and also most Wednesdays at 6 PM. We're never too old to learn and refresh our faith. Come join us!

Watch for the updates on "Hero Central" our 3rd Vacation Bible School in the May Newsletter. We need your help to make the VBS a success.



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.

April 9 - Sixth Sunday in Lent

Liturgy of the Palms:

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11

Liturgy of the Passion:

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

April 16 - Resurrection of the Lord - Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

April 23 - Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

April 30 - Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

Easter Memorials

Those who wish to remember departed friends and loved ones on Easter Sunday may do so in one of two ways:

PURCHASE A POTTED FLOWER FOR \$10.00

_____ Tulips _____ Daffodils

- Give my flower to the homebound/ill.
 I will take my flower.

GIVE TO THE MEMORIAL FUND.

I wish to give \$_____ to the Memorial Fund.

PLEASE FILL IN FOR BULLETIN LISTING:

In memory of / in honor of (circle one)
 or other message: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

**Please return this form to the church office
 no later than Wednesday, April 12th.**

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 SYMAPTHY TO:

Martha and Bob O'Keefe for the death of Bob's mother,
Dorothy Jenkinson at the age of 98 (12/22/1918 - 3/22/2017).



Visitors to our Church in March

Mary Greig, Norwich



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).

8 James Dann
15 Dawn Hagenbuch
23 Ericka Tyler
30 Neil Conant



UCC NEWS

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

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STANDARD A
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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**