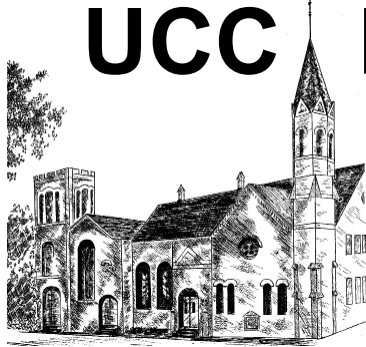


# UCC NEWS



## May 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

## **BE THE CHURCH**

*Protect the environment. Care for the poor.*

**Forgive often. Reject racism.**

**Fight for the powerless.**

*Share earthly and spiritual resources.*

*Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.*

God is still speaking.  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

---

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,

One of my duties as the representative of the Susquehanna Association on the Board of the New York Conference is to write a report for the Spring meeting of the Association. This is an edited version of what I offered.

I need to ask an obvious question: who is the Conference? I hope the answer is equally obvious: YOU AND I are the New York Conference. Put differently, if you maintain membership in a church and that church maintains membership in the Susquehanna Association, you are a member of the New York Conference.

The late “Tip” O’Neill was the 47<sup>th</sup> Speaker of the House of Representatives and is famous for saying, “All politics are local.” I would suggest, equally, all church is local.

However, things happen in other places which have an effect on us in our local setting. So, to be isolated in any way in today’s world— to make everything just local— does not seem to be a productive idea. In a real sense, that is a prime reason for the very existence of the New York Conference. In the world today connectivity is important.

I need to point out the obvious again: in the Congregational tradition what binds us to one another is covenant. In covenant commitment we, the individual people of the churches and churches as groups, are charged and are blessed to listen to one another, to counsel one another, to support one another, to help one another, to seek to strengthen one another.

Now, all that is fine rhetoric. But what does it mean? Let me illustrate what covenant means with a story.

As you know, I offer service of worship one Sunday afternoon a month at Chenango Valley Home. CVH has a yearly “volunteers’ lunch” attended by all the residents and the people who offer help at the home, people who do exercise classes, bring therapy dogs, give concerts and offer Sunday worship. I overheard this conversation between two volunteers which illustrates covenant.

“I think it’s a great idea to host a foreign exchange student. My parents did that when I was in high school,” said one

person.

“Isn’t that hard?” asked the other.

“Of course. It takes a real commitment,” said the first.

“Our student was from Sweden. He was a great guy once we got to know him. He now has a wife and children.”

“And we have kept in touch. We SKYPE, send e-mails. Our lives are so similar even though he is in Sweden. Well, my husband and I decided we would go visit him to celebrate our tenth anniversary. We were welcomed with open arms.”

Do note: the reason for keeping in touch was personal. A bond had formed. The reason for keeping in touch was NOT that the tenth anniversary trip happened.

Yes, that was a benefit. But that opportunity became a reality because of the bond. Indeed, were the circumstances different that trip might never have happened. There was no guarantee any benefit might happen. The bond was there with or without the trip.

In short, the reason for the continued friendship was a personal relationship had been built and developed. Put differently, the reason the COVENANT THRIVED between these people was a PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP had been built and developed.

And that is what the covenant among the churches of the New York Conference is about. To be clear, ours is a covenant with the other churches in the Conference. Thereby, the Conference is the medium of that covenant.

Indeed, in this covenant we build and develop personal relationships with people all around our Conference. Is there a guarantee of benefit? No. If there *was* a guarantee of a benefit, the relationship would not be a covenant commitment with the other churches in the Conference. If there *was* a guarantee of a benefit, the relationship would be merely transactional and the transaction would not even be two ways. It would be one way.

When a relationship becomes transactional, it stops being a covenant. It has become degraded to the point where you are simply asking the question, “What can I get out of this?” rather than asking the question, “What can I put into this?” Certainly “What can I put into this?” is the paramount question to ask.

All that having been said, let me address one major happening in the New York Conference this year which will become “official” on May the 4<sup>th</sup>. On that date the Reformed

Association of the New York Conference will become a legal entity.

Many churches in the New York Synod of the denomination known as the Reformed Church in America have expressed an interest in maintaining dual standing with both the Reformed Church in America and the New York Conference. At the Annual Meeting of the Conference last year the delegates voted to put the necessary pieces in place to allow that to happen.

The New York Synod of the Reformed Church in America consists of churches from Westchester down to New York City and out to Long Island. So as of May 4<sup>th</sup>, the New York Conference will get larger. Since the RCA is maintaining its own structure and denominational ties this relationship (note: see the explanation of covenant above) illustrates a growing bond which has developed between our churches over the course of several years.

So, see you in church— where covenant happens.

In Faith,



Joe Connolly

### **Food Sunday - May 7**

Bring in non-perishable food items for donation to Our Daily Bread Food Pantry. A basket for donations will be in front of the communion table.

### **Paper Products & Diaper Sunday - May 21**

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 May 27.



## Historian Notes

by Patricia Evans, Church Historian

### THE EARLY MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

The decision to form a church was decided by “the zeal of the little company of believers, the number of Christians and their spirituality soon increased, and they began to want a church organizations in which those of the same faith could unite for mutual sympathy and freedom of expression.” *The History and Manual of the First Congregational Church, Norwich, NY August 1, 1879, by C. R. Johnson. Page 14.*

Rev. Joel T. Benedict received a letter to assist in the organization of the church, he preached June 14<sup>th</sup> and on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> then agreed to perform the examination on June 16, Thursday. He examined those presented for examination, finishing on Saturday. Twenty one were approved. “A confession of faith and covenant having been prepared was read to them and met their approbation. Agreed, by Divine leave, to organize them into a visible Church on the Lord’s day.”

These are the profiles of some of the twenty-one original members:

**John Ambler** was an early settler of Great Brook also known as Ambler Settlement and Amblerville, NY in the Town of New Berlin. His occupation was manufacturing and agriculture.

**Ruth**, his wife also joined the church at the same time. John and Ruth left the church in 1817. They are both buried in the Rich Sage Cemetery, South New Berlin, NY.

**Tracy Ensworth** was born May 9, 1780, in Canterbury CT.

His parents: James (born about 1747 died 14 May 1790)

Canterbury Windham, CT & Anne Tracy, Fairfield, CT.

1820 Census: in Norwich, NY: 5 family members in household  
census

1830 & 40 Census: not found in Chenango County  
 1839 A letter of discharge from Tracy and Elizabeth Ensworth (Tracy) for “Discharge from the church” to another church.  
 1850 Census: Tracy, age 70 in Groveland, Livingston, NY with Sarah A, 21 born about 1829 in NJ, also Dyer 2 born in NY and Gilbert born in NY  
 1860 Census: Genesee, Genesee, Michigan, Dyer 36, Sarah 30, Dyer 13, Gilbert 11, Elizabeth & William 3, and Tracy 80  
 1870 Tracy a resident of the Poor House, age 90 born Conn, now living in Town of Burton, County of Genesee, Michigan  
 No death notice found for Tracy or Elizabeth.

**Joseph S. Fenton:** Mr. Fenton was Truman Enos’ partner in business and was converted by Mr. Enos. After this they were partners in everything they did to “build up the Redeemer’s Kingdom in the village.” The church had no settled pastor for three or four years thus Sunday services were usually conducted by Mr. Fenton or David Buttolph, consisting of reading one of Edward Payson’s sermons at the Academy (which was located on the Mitchell Street, and North Broad Street (Rt 12) intersection. In 1835 the building was moved a few feet north, to open up Mitchell Street and then burned a year later.<sup>1</sup>)

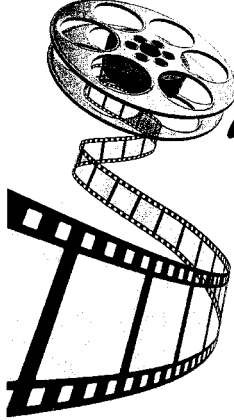
Sometimes the Academy was locked by a “little pesky teacher” that was thought to be Noah Hubbard, who loved to annoy the congregation for their strong Doctrines about the future state. The weekly prayer meetings were held either in the kitchen of Mr. Enos or Mr. Fenton.

Joseph Fenton was elected trustee for the initial 3 years. He was a merchant that started his business in Norwich about 1810 and continued to 1823 or 24. He was elected the 1<sup>st</sup> Superintendent of the Library that was procured and kept in Mr. Fenton’s store. Every Saturday afternoon books were set in rows on the store counter and the children of the community were allowed to examine the books and draw them out.

Mr. Fenton and family lived in a large dwelling that was his home and store, “the Mansion House.” It was located across from the old Eagle Hotel (now the location of Mavis Muffler – “2017” on the corner of East Park). After he moved to Michigan

in 1830 the house was converted to a hotel by Mr. Milner along with its extensive garden (now where the old Sherriff's office was located and the current Baptist Church and former Follett's law building). (Mr. Fenton was a prominent member of the Presbyterian Church and was cashier of the Bank of Chenango.)

<sup>1</sup>Edward Payson 1783-1827 was an American Congregational preacher, born July 25, 1783 at Rindge, NH. He was a graduate of Harvard in 1803, then principal of a school in Portland, ME and in 1807 became a junior pastor, until his death on October 22, 1827. His father, Seth, was pastor of the Congregational Church of Ringe NH, his uncle Phillips Payson was the pastor of the Chelsea, ME church and also a physicist and astronomer.




*Blame it on  
the Movies*





with the  
**Mid-York Concert Band**

*Featuring vocalists*  
*Aria Maholchic and Michael Moren*  
*With a special Armed Forces Tribute*  
*Mark D. Sands ~ Music Director*

Sunday, May 21, 2017 at 2:00 PM  
Norwich High School Auditorium  
Free will offering at the door

*This program is made possible with the support of the R. C. Smith Foundation  
And with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts,  
administered by the Chenango Arts Council*



| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday  |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| <h1>May 2017</h1>  |  |   |  |  |   |   |
|   | <p>1<br/>10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl<br/>4:00 p.m. Tutoring<br/>5:30 p.m. K. Given, Founders' Rm.</p>  | <p>2<br/>10:00 a.m. Tutoring, Chapel<br/>10:30 a.m. Interfaith Council Mtg.<br/>1:00 p.m. TNT Quilters, Kitchen<br/>5:30 p.m. Open House at The Place. See p. 12.</p> | <p>3<br/>2:30 p.m. A. Humer, Nave<br/>3:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs<br/>4:30 p.m. Scholarship Comm.<br/>6:00 p.m. Bible Study, Chapel<br/>7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave</p>                    | <p>4<br/>10:00 a.m. Tutoring, Chapel<br/>12:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs<br/>12:00 p.m. Piano Delivery<br/>7:00 p.m. Trustees Mtg.</p>                      | <p>5<br/>9:00 a.m. Rummage Sale<br/>BSUMC</p>                                       | <p>6<br/>9:00 a.m. Rummage Sale,<br/>BSUMC</p>  |
|  |  |   |  |  | <b>UCCNY Conference Women's Retreat, Painted Post May 4 - 6</b>                     |   |
| <p>7<br/>8:30 a.m. Church School<br/>9:15 a.m. Nursery<br/>10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion<br/>Food Sunday<br/>11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour<br/>11:30 a.m. Bell Choir</p>   | <p>8<br/>4:00 p.m. Tutoring<br/>5:30 p.m. K. Given, Founders' Rm.<br/>7:30 p.m. Monday Evening Musical Club Concert. See p. 11.</p>                        | <p>9<br/>10:00 a.m. Tutoring, Chapel<br/>1:00 p.m. TNT Quilters, Kitchen<br/>7:00 p.m. VBS Planning Meeting, Founders' Rm.</p>  | <p>10<br/>2:30 p.m. A. Humer, Nave<br/>3:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs<br/>6:00 p.m. Bible Study, Chapel<br/>7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave</p>   | <p>11<br/>10:00 a.m. Tutoring, Chapel<br/>12:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs<br/>6:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Founders' Rm.<br/>7:00 p.m. Executive Council Mtg.</p> |  | <p>13</p>   |
|  |  | <b>Committee on Authorized Ministry, Hamilton</b>   |  |  |   |   |
| <p>14 <b>Mother's Day</b><br/>8:30 a.m. Church School<br/>9:15 a.m. Nursery<br/>10:00 a.m. Worship<br/><i>Confirmation &amp; Baptism</i><br/>11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour<br/>11:30 a.m. Bell Choir</p>  | <p>15<br/>10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl<br/>11:00 a.m. Interment - L.M. Johnson<br/>4:00 p.m. Tutoring<br/>5:30 p.m. K. Given, Founders' Rm.</p>                 | <p>16<br/>9:00 a.m. Head Start Policy Council, Founders' Rm.<br/>10:00 a.m. Tutoring, Chapel<br/>1:00 p.m. TNT Quilters<br/>7:00 p.m. Deacons Mtg.</p>                | <p>17<br/>1:00 p.m. PAC Meeting<br/>2:30 p.m. A. Humer, Nave<br/>3:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs<br/>6:00 p.m. Bible Study, Chapel<br/>7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave</p>                         | <p>18<br/>10:00 a.m. Tutoring, Chapel<br/>12:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs<br/>6:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group, Founders' Rm.</p>                        | <p>19</p>   | <p>20</p>   |
| <p>21<br/>8:30 a.m. Church School<br/>9:15 a.m. Nursery<br/>10:00 a.m. Worship<br/><i>Intergenerational Sunday Paper Products Sunday</i><br/>11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour<br/>3:00 p.m. Pastor Joe at Chenango Valley Home<br/>2:00 p.m. Mid-York Concert Band at NHS. See p. 7.</p> | <p>22<br/>4:00 p.m. Tutoring<br/>5:30 p.m. K. Given, Founders' Rm.</p>  | <p>23<br/>10:00 a.m. Tutoring, Chapel<br/>1:00 p.m. TNT Quilters, Kitchen</p>   | <p>24<br/>2:30 p.m. A. Humer, Nave<br/>3:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs<br/>6:00 p.m. Bible Study, Chapel<br/>7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave<br/>7:00 p.m. Democratic Committee, Founders' Rm.</p> | <p>25<br/>10:00 a.m. Tutoring, Chapel<br/>12:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs</p>   | <p>26</p>   | <p>27</p>   |
|  |  | <b>Authorized Ministers Retreat and UCC NY Conference Board Meetings, Tarrytown</b>   |  | <b>UCC NY Annual Meeting, Tarrytown May 25 - 26</b>  |   |   |
| <p>28<br/>8:30 a.m. Church School<br/>9:15 a.m. Nursery<br/>10:00 a.m. Worship<br/>11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour<br/>11:30 a.m. Bell Choir</p>  | <p>29 <b>Memorial Day</b><br/><i>Church Office Closed</i><br/>10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl<br/>4:00 p.m. Tutoring<br/>5:30 p.m. K. Given, Founders' Rm.</p>     | <p>30<br/>10:00 a.m. Tutoring, Chapel<br/>1:00 p.m. TNT Quilters, Kitchen</p>   | <p>31<br/>2:30 p.m. A. Humer, Nave<br/>3:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs<br/>6:00 p.m. Bible Study, Chapel<br/>7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave</p>   | <p>1<br/>10:00 a.m. Tutoring, Chapel<br/>11:00 a.m. Food Pantry Board<br/>12:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs</p>   | <p>2</p>  |  |



## Thank You Letter

Dear UCC Members,

Thank you very much for allowing 4H to use your wonderful church for our sewing spectacular. We really enjoy your hospitality!

Janet Pfromm

Cornell Cooperative Extension Chenango County

## Director of Children and Youth Ministries

Linda L. Oehme

This has been an exciting year in Church School. We will be completing our first year of the new curriculum, The Whole People of God. We will celebrate the completion of this wonderful curriculum on May 21<sup>st</sup> during church with an Intergenerational Worship service. We will also celebrate our graduating seniors. Come and share in this celebration since we are all The Whole People of God.

### CALLING ALL VBS HEROS

At VBS Hero Central, we will help the children discover their strength in God through Bible stories, Music, Science Activities, Crafts, Games, Snacks and lots of fun!

Sign up for a Vacation Bible School volunteer role and join us in the excitement at VBS Hero Central:  
Discover your strength in God!

Plans are underway for us to host the Norwich Community Vacation Bible School, **Hero Central, Discovering Your Strength in God.** If you would be able to help with this endeavor, please contact Linda Oehme or Jen Mallozzi. Adults and teens are welcome to help. Our next 2 meetings are scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM and June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. Come and see what it's all about!

## It Is Time to Prepare Your Annual Report

If you are responsible for one of the following, please get your report to the church office by June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Executive Council                         | Board of Trustees     |
| Memorial Gifts Committee                  | Board of Deacons      |
| Historian                                 | Prayer Shawl Ministry |
| Director of Youth & Children's Ministries |                       |

Copies of last year's reports are available from Cheri Willard, Parish Coordinator, 334-3434 or <office@uccnorwichny.org>

**Monday Evening Musical Club**  
invites you to

**Advanced Students and  
Scholarship Winners Recital**

**Monday, May 8 – 7:30 p.m.**  
**United Church of Christ, Norwich**

**Free will offering taken. Reception to follow.**

***RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE***  
***at***  
***Broad Street United Methodist Church***

**Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> (9:00-7:00 p.m.)**  
**Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> (9:00-12:00 noon)**

# Open House

- \*Meet Our Staff*
- \*Enroll in Summer Programs*
- \*Light Refreshments*
- \*Tour Our Building*
- \*Activities for children*



## Our Summer Programs:

### Summer KIDS Program

- Serves children K-12 years
- Open 6am to 6pm Monday-Friday

### Headwaters Youth Conservation Corps

- Serves young adults 17-25 years
- Provides educational award and salary

### Summer Youth Employment Program

- Serves young adults 14-20 years
- Provides job preparedness and job training within Chenango County

*May 2, 2017*

*5:30pm-7:00pm*

*Please join us for an evening of fun!*



The Place is located at 22 East Main Street, Norwich  
Directly behind the Post Office  
(607)336-9696 X 103



# 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.

## **Fourth Sunday of Easter - May 7**

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

## **Fifth Sunday of Easter- May 14**

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:15, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

## **Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 21**

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

## **Ascension of the Lord - May 25**

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

## **Seventh Sunday of Easter - May 28**

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

## Prayer Concerns

Let us keep in our prayers the following concerns:

- \* families-those families that may be going through particularly difficult times, families seeking God's guidance;
- \* those who are moving because of their work, those looking for work, and those looking for meaning in their work.
- \* those who are ill, who are recovering from illness or surgery, or who anticipate going to the hospital.
- \* those who grieve over the death of someone they love.
- \* our church, that it might be faithful to its calling, our pastor, all staff members and committees.
- \* peace in the world.
- \* gay, lesbian and bisexual and transgendered persons, and all those who feel isolated and alone.

### Our Prayers and Sympathy To:

the family of **Rev. Allen Lang**, the former UCC pastor in Oxford who died on April 1, 2017.

**Donna Wood-Craig and Steve Craig** for the death of Donna's mother, **Marie Wood** on April 19, 2017.



## Bulletins from Other Churches

Gary and Vicki Gray - Trinity United Methodist Church,  
North Myrtle Beach, SC, March 5, 2017

## Visitors to Our Church in April

Anne Brereton, Berlin, Vermont

William Johnson

Carol Peterson, Doylestown, Pennsylvania

Cindy and Tom Rasely, Grand Junction, Michigan

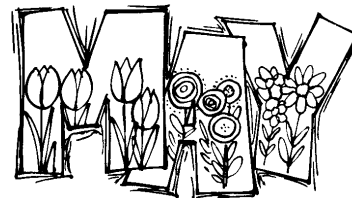
Mike and Nance Rifanburg, Deerfield, Massachusetts

Carolyn Steward



These are the birthdays of members and friends of our local 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).

- 6 Beth Garry
- 9 Kerrienne Kelly
- 13 Nathaniel Garry
- 14 Marcas Flindt
- 15 Betty Emmons
- 17 Joanne Ferguson
- 20 Tim Carson
- 24 Aria Maholchic
- 29 Mary Williams



# UCC NEWS

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



DATED MATERIAL: Please Deliver Promptly.  
This issue mailed 04/28/17.

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**