

UCC NEWS

November 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

We Gather Together
FREE COMMUNITY
THANKSGIVING DINNER

Turkey and All the Trimmings

Thanksgiving Day - November 23rd

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

37 West Main St., Norwich

Home Deliveries (within 2 mile radius of Norwich)

Regular seating starts at noon. (Dinner 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.)

*For Delivery, take out, reservations or to volunteer
call 607-334-8801 by November 17, 2017.*

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

facebook

E-mail: office@uccnorwichny.org Website: www.uccnorwichny.org

From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

I need to start this missive with two disclaimers. First disclaimer: I know there are parishioners who do not own or have access to a computer or a tablet or a smart phone. Hence, these words may be interesting. But if you, in fact, have no access to a computer or a tablet or a smart phone they do not apply to you.

Second disclaimer: yes, when I talk about computers I do know something about them so I am not just “talking through my hat.” To back that up, let me offer some personal history.

The first time I operated a computer was 1966. That computer had 12K of memory. That is not 12 megabytes, the kind of memory capacity you might find in computers today; that is 12 thousand positions in memory. And this computer took up a space the size of the Founders’ Room.

Here is piece of hidden history of the Norwich Church and its membership. In 1966 at NBT one of our own parishioners was operating exactly the same kind of computer I was operating for Bloomingdale’s Department Store in New York City in 1966. Now, that ought to set off a guessing game as you try to figure out who this person is.

So yes, I am a geek. Believe it or not, I have owned my own personal computer since 1980. Therefore, I have had a personal computer for 37 years. (No, I don’t believe it either.)

Why did I get a computer in 1980? As many of you know I had a previous career as a writer and a lyricist. The composers I worked with had a piano to help each of them write notes. I had a computer to help me write words.

I mention all this because of a very good dialogue members of our Association had at a recent meeting of the Susquehanna Association. Part of that gathering was a discussion ably led by the Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams.

The topic of the discussion was a look at how we move forward as an Association and as churches. Therefore, one topic which was broached over and over and over again by church members in our Association was using computers to communicate.

Let me unpack that word ‘communication’ because many people like to deny what I am about to say when it comes to

communicating. All communication has three components: the sending of the message, the medium over or on which or through which the message is sent and the receiving of the message.

Personally, I believe the party sending the message and the party receiving the message are the most important components in this analysis. Indeed, put differently, one party has to be willing to send the message. Equally one party has to be willing to receive the message (and, perhaps, respond). From that perspective, the medium does not matter. The medium can be computers or air waves— television and radio— or old fashioned paper. If the party on either end of this triad fails to do its part, communication falters.

Therefore, let me elaborate on computer communication with some examples. These examples, of course, presume you have access to a computer or a tablet or a smart phone.

This is the web address (A.K.A. URL) of the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ: <uccny.org>. When you go to that page go to the “Contact” tab on the top and open the “Social Media” section. If you have an account with either Facebook or Twitter you can connect to the Conference with one of several options listed there. You can sign up to follow any or all of them.

Next, under the tab that says “Our Thoughts” select “Happenings Around Our Conference.” This is the weekly New York Conference Newsletter. Go to the line that says ‘if you would like to begin receiving Happenings, *click here* to join the mailing list.’ A click on that will get you signed up for that newsletter.

Next, go to this URL: <ucc.org>. This is the web site of the church at the National level. There are a multitude of resources here from Daily Devotionals to information about Faith Formation to podcasts. Please explore this web site for all it has to offer.

Of course, the United Church of Christ, First Congregational of Norwich has its own web site, effectively managed by Cheri Willard, our Parish Coordinator. When was the last time you were on our local church web page? In fact, did you know we have a local church web page?

Let me offer this testimony about our web page. Any new person I know about who has come through our doors in

at least the last five years has mentioned our web page and told me they checked us out on the web **BEFORE** they came through our doors.

This is the URL of our web page: <uccnorwichny.org>. There is plenty of information on it. We have everything from pictures to Newsletters, to Sermons.

The sermon tab has both text and sound. Did you miss church last Sunday? The sermon is right there! You can read it. You can listen to it. And you can sign up to get the text of the sermons and our Newsletter sent to you by e-mail!!!

Did I mention our web site has pictures? (I'm sorry; that was an inside joke for our photographer, my wife.)

By the way, did you know we have a Facebook page? Again, go to our web page, slide down to the bottom of the main page and click on the Facebook logo. Presto, that gets you to the Norwich Church Facebook page. Please like us on Facebook!

This comes back to the thought that all communication has three components. These three are the sending, the medium and the receiving of the message.

Part of the point here is *you are the one who needs to send the message*. You are the one who needs to take the initiative to electronically connect with this church, with the Conference, with the Church at the National level.

You are the one who starts the contact. That is the way electronic communication works. You take the first step. Our church, the Conference, the Church at the National level will respond only when you engage.

Needless to say, part of my point here is also to ask the question *what do you get by participating electronically*. What you get is information. But information is just that: information.

What information does not offer is the covenant bonding and support of the community of faith which is the United Church of Christ, First Congregational of Norwich, which is the New York Conference, which is the Church at the National level.

And our denomination is not a top-down structure. Our denomination is a bottom-up structure. That comes back to the thought that it is you who needs to take the initiative.

And in taking the initiative, there is only one way to avail yourself of the aforementioned covenant bonding and support

of the community of faith. Going to this URL: <uccnorwichny.org> will NOT get you the covenant bonding and support of the community of faith which is the United Church of Christ, First Congregational of Norwich.

In order to get the covenant bonding and support of the community of faith which is the United Church of Christ, First Congregational of Norwich you need to come through the door of the Meeting House at 11 West Main Street, preferably on a Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. If you come through that door at that time you can join us in covenant bonding and be supported by the community of faith as we worship the One Triune God.

That, clearly, leaves me with only one thing to say. See you in church.

In Faith,



Joe Connolly

Our Daily Bread Food Pantry

Located at Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Hours: Mon., Wed. Fri.—10:00—12:00
Mon. & Wed. reopens at 3:30—5:00 p.m.

Stuffing Sunday - November 5th



Bring in boxes of stuffing to include in the Thanksgiving Boxes. (Stuffing will also be accepted any time the church office is open.)

Paper Products Sunday - November 19th

Bring in paper products and personal care items for Our Daily Bread Food Pantry. Donations of diapers are also accepted for First Baptist Church's 4th Saturday Diaper Project.

Letter from the Christian Enlistment Campaign Committee

Dear Fellow Congregants and Friends,

I am writing to you in regards to our stewardship campaign for 2018. This past year, thanks to your prayerful generosity, we have continued to support a variety of local, regional, and nation wide missions. The net result is that we have helped many people. Some of these people we see immediately in our community and others unseen throughout the world.

Our pledges have supported such local missions as The Place, Opportunities for Chenango, Our Daily Bread Food Closet, Thanksgiving baskets, and several other efforts. We as a church continue to have a generous heart for missions in the Susquehanna Association and the New York Conference. Our pledges help with famine relief, natural disaster relief, immigrant care, and similar on a national and worldwide basis. We can be comforted by the wise decisions that our Missions Committee has made for distribution of our pledges.

During the 2017 pledge campaign, the Goal of the Christian Enlistment Campaign Committee and the Trustees was \$44,000. In fact, the final pledged amount was near \$51,000. This demonstrates your generosity and willingness to “dig deeper” for what you feel is right. For 2018, we ask that you continue to offer what you can. With thought and prayer that amount may well be more than last year. I would also note that we have an active program sponsored by our Deacons, of providing a box of diapers to the First Baptist Church for every \$500 pledged during the stewardship campaign.

Pledge Sunday is November 12, 2017. Pledges can be accepted at any time, and should be in the church office no later than December 17, 2017.

Thank you for your continued generosity.


Yours in Faith,



Jack Brereton, Chair
Christian Enlistment Campaign Committee.

Singers Invited

DARKNESS
into Light


A Christmas Musical Journey


**An Ecumenical Event for Advent
December 17, 2017**

Members of church choirs, school choirs and the community are invited to join together to perform
Darkness into Light by Mary McDonald
Under the direction of Mary Williams.


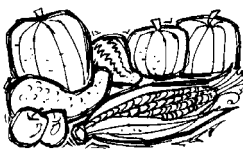




Rehearsals
Sundays, November 5, 12, 19, 26 and December 3, 10
Dress Rehearsal: Friday, December 15
Performance: Sunday, December 17

Singers must register through the UCC church office at 334-3434 or at <www.uccnorwichny.org>.

There is no registration fee, although singers will need to purchase their music. (Scholarships available.)

 Hosted by
United Church of Christ, First Congregational
11 West Main St., Norwich.
office@uccnorwichny.org • 607-334-3434



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1 style="color: yellow;">November 2017</h1>						
			<p>1 <i>All Saints Day</i> 11:00 a.m. M. Conant 2:30 p.m. A. Humer, Nave 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>2 4:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs 4:00 p.m. Norwich Interfaith Council Meeting 5:30 p.m. Chenango Hospice Dinner</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 <i>Daylight Savings Time ends tomorrow. Turn your clocks back tonight.</i></p>
<p>5 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion Stuffing Sunday 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Hand Bells 4:00 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal</p>	<p>6 4:00 p.m. Tutoring 5:30 p.m. Tai Chi 7:30 p.m. Monday Evening Musical Club. See p. 13.</p>	<p>7 1:00 p.m. Quilters 4:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs</p>	<p>8 9:00 a.m. CAM Mtg., Homer 11:00 a.m. M. Conant, upstairs 2:30 p.m. A. Humer, Nave 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>9 4:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs 6:00 p.m. Piecemakers</p>	<p>10 Veteran's Day Observed Church Office Closed 12:00 p.m. Home Bureau Bazaar, Founders' Rm.</p>	<p>11 <i>Veteran's Day</i> 9:00 a.m. Piecemakers, Jr. High Room 12:00 p.m. Home Bureau Bazaar, Founders' Rm.</p>
<p>12 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship <i>Stewardship Sunday</i> 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Hand Bells 3:00 p.m. Pastor Joe at Chenango Valley Home. 4:00 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal</p>	<p>13 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:00 p.m. Tutoring 5:30 p.m. Tai Chi</p>	<p>14 9:00 a.m. Head Start Orientation, Founders' Rm. 1:00 p.m. Quilters 4:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs</p>	<p>15 11:00 a.m. M. Conant, upstairs 1:00 p.m. County PAC Mtg. 2:30 p.m. A. Humer, Nave 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m. Democratic Committee</p>	<p>16 4:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs 6:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group 7:00 p.m. Executive Council</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 </p>
<p>19 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. Hand Bells 1:00 p.m. Deacon's Meeting 3:00 p.m. Installation at Sherburne UCC 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 4:00 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal</p>	<p>20 4:00 p.m. Packing Thanksgiving Boxes (see p. 10) </p>	<p>21 Turkey Basket Hand-Out Day (see p.10.)</p>	<p>22 </p>	<p>23 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> Church Office Closed 12:00 p.m. Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Emmanuel Episcopal Church. (See front cover.) </p>	<p>24 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>25 </p>
<p>26 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. Hand Bells 4:00 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal</p>	<p>27 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:00 p.m. Tutoring 5:30 p.m. Tai Chi</p>	<p>28 1:00 p.m. Quilters 4:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs</p>	<p>29 11:00 a.m. M. Conant, upstairs 2:30 p.m. A. Humer, Nave 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>30 11:00 a.m. our Daily Bread Food Closet Board Meeting 4:00 p.m. M. Conant, upstairs</p>	<p>1 9:00 a.m. Collate and mail December Newsletter</p>	<p>2</p>

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Monday November 20

- 4:00 p.m. until done. (Pizza provided for dinner.)
Bagging produce and filling boxes.

Tuesday November 21

- 7:45 a.m. Trucks to pick up turkeys and rolls.
Meet at church.

- 9:30 a.m. Unload turkeys and finish filling boxes.

1:00 - 6:00 p.m.

- Greeting & paperwork
 Lift & hand out boxes or Runner
 Caller

When are you available during this time frame (1 -6 p.m.)?

(Linda will contact Tuesday afternoon volunteers to schedule their shifts.)

**Give this Sheet to Linda Oehme or
leave at the church office.**

Director of Children and Youth Ministries

by Linda L. Oehme

The *Whole People of God* curriculum inspires children from ages 3 to 12. Currently, we are learning ways to “Choose God.” We are exploring various scriptures in 1 Thessalonians and a lesson based on the Psalms. Plans are being developed for a Christmas Pageant which will be presented on December 17th during worship. Mark your calendar; you don’t want to miss it.

October 15th marked the first Church School coffee hour. The children prepared most of the treats for fellowship time. Our curriculum tied in the preparations and recipes that promoted World Food Day. The children had fun and everyone seemed to enjoy the goodies.

Also, we are in the beginning stages of reorganizing activities for the teens to get them involved in the life of the church. Stay tuned for the details.

Church School meets most Sundays at 8:30 a.m. Come and see what it is all about. Also we continue to have Adult Bible Study most Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and most Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. A new Confirmation class has started. If you would like to renew your faith, please call Pastor Joe. We’re never too old to learn and refresh our faith.

Note from the Turkey Lady:

Preparations for the “Thanksgiving Basket” Project are well in the works. We have the boxes. The letters went out a week early and volunteer projects are being developed. The food will be ordered the first week of -November. We are on our way! Consider signing up to volunteer. (See page 10.) These are ways you can be involved with church beyond its doors. Watch in the bulletins for more opportunities for ministry.

Thanksgiving Pies Needed

The Emmanuel Episcopal Church requests pies to be donated for the Thanksgiving Community Dinner. Both homemade and store bought pies are welcome. Pies should be delivered to Emmanuel on Wednesday, November 22 before 4:00 p.m. Please let them know if you plan to donate - 334-8801.



Look in the Mailbox

Dear UCC,

I am one of the families that received a Pack & Play from Public Health. I can't tell you enough how much this helped my family when times have been tough. Thank you so much. I can't tell you enough how grateful we are. Me and all my family appreciate it. So thanks again from all my family.

[Name withheld to preserve privacy]

Dear Missions Committee,

Please accept my deep gratitude for your gift to the Fund for Andover Newton. We hold fast to Andover Newton's mission while we move into the future with your help: "Deeply rooted in Christian faith, and radically open to what God is doing now, Andover Newton Theological School educates inspiring leaders for the 21st century." Your giving is critical as we continue to educate today's students for tomorrow's ministry.

I offer my thanks on behalf of the students, faculty and staff of Andover Newton.

Rev. Dr. Ned Allyn Parker
 Development and Alumni/ae Relations Officer
 Andover Newton Theological School

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.

November 5 - 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Micah 3:5-12; Psalm 43
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

November 12 - 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7
Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 or Amos 5:18-24
Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 or Psalm 70
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13



November 19th - 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

November 26 - 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46



	<p>Monday Evening Musical Club invites you to</p> <p>Members and Area Music Teachers November 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Nave.</p> <p>Free will offering to benefit their scholarship fund. Reception to follow.</p>	
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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 **Robert Connine**, who died on October 16, 2017.



Bulletins from Other Churches

Gary and Vicki Gray - Trinity United Methodist Church,
North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, September 24, 2017.

Ed and Ruth Tucker - Main Post Chapel, Fort Knox,
Kentucky, September 24, 2017



Project Safe Sleep Update

Starting in 2018 the Chenango County Health Department will be purchasing 500 Sleep Sacks for newborns. Sleep Sacks are wearable blankets that replace loose blankets in the crib, which can cover a baby's face and interfere with breathing. This new program will also include safe sleep education by a Public Health Nurse.

Visitors to Our Church in October

Chip and Lisa Izzo, Rochester, NY

Joe Izzo, Vestal NY

Bob and Gwen Snyder, Midland, Michigan



November

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).

1	Michael Willard	16	Betty Brown
2	Pat Flores	18	Matt Maholchic
5	Bob Bartlett		Betty Reed
7	Michael Adams	22	Glenn Mahaffey
	Jennifer Borfitz	24	Alexander Gage
			Milo Hedlund
11	Darcy Gates-Brewer	29	Taylor Hagenbuch
	Terry Hagenbuch		Jessica Willard

UCC NEWS

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



DATED MATERIAL: Please Deliver Promptly.
This issue mailed October 27, 2017

STANDARD A
PERMIT 24
NORWICH NY 13815

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Ministers: **All the People**
Pastor and Teacher: **The Rev. Mr. Joseph Connolly**
Moderator: **Robert Oehme**
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**