

UCC News

June 2018



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

First Congregational, Norwich NY
An Open and Affirming Church

Sunday, June 24th 204th Annual Meeting

All members are encouraged to attend
the June Annual Meeting of the
United Church of Christ, First Congregational,
Norwich, New York, during the worship service.

A monthly publication of

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

The Rev. Mr. Joseph Connolly, Pastor and Teacher

11 West Main Street, Norwich NY 13815

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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.

WORSHIP SERVICE: Sunday, 10:00 a.m. (Nursery provided)

From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

I recently heard a lecture which said good leaders proclaim what they are for, not what they are against. The lecture said one of the best modern examples of that was in the preaching and the teaching and writing of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I need to be clear about the nomenclature of a proclaiming what Christians are for. You see, sometimes proclaiming what we are for falls under the heading of what historically has been called a “Confession of Faith.”

I know: for many the word confession sounds like an admission of guilt. But (again historically) the first meaning of “Confession” was “a statement setting out religious doctrine” or “an organized religious body having a common creed.”

This kind of Confession— a statement setting out religious doctrine— was recently published by some church leaders. That document is way too long for this space. But since I think I try to tell people what I am for, not what I am against, I will use it, record some of it below. So I am clear about this, I have edited that published Statement of Confession considerably.

It is time to be followers of Jesus before anything else— race, nationality, party, ethnicity, gender, geography. Identity in Christ precedes all other identities. “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35).

*(I am adding a note not in the published Confession here: **if that is the case, then these precepts should follow as statements of belief, a Confession.**)*

I. WE BELIEVE each human is made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26). That confers a divinely decreed dignity, worth, a God-given equality to all of us as children of the One God, the Creator of all things. To hold otherwise is to say the image of God is not all of us. Our participation in the

global community of Christ prevents any toleration of bigotry. Justice and healing are biblical and theological issues for us, central to the mission of the body of Christ. We give thanks for the prophetic role of churches when they have called us to be faithful.

II. WE BELIEVE we are one body. In Christ, there is no oppression based on race, gender, identity or class (Galatians 3:28). The body of Christ, where those great human divisions are to be overcome, is meant to be an example for the rest of society.

III. WE BELIEVE how we treat the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the stranger, the sick, the prisoner is how we treat Christ. (Matthew 25: 31-46) “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” God calls us to protect and seek justice for those who are poor and vulnerable. God made us all equal in divine dignity and love. Our proclamation of Jesus, the Christ, is tied to solidarity with the most vulnerable.

IV. WE BELIEVE truth is central to personal and public lives, central to the prophetic biblical tradition, a vocation which includes speaking the Word of God to the society. A commitment to speaking truth is a part of the Decalogue, “You shall not bear false witness” (Exodus 20:16), and it is foundational.

V. WE BELIEVE the leadership of Christ is servant-hood. Jesus said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles (the world) hold it over them. Their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant” (Matthew 20:25-26).

VI. WE BELIEVE that the Jesus, the Christ, tells us to go into all nations making disciples (Matthew 28:18). Our churches, our nations, are part of an international community whose interests always surpass boundaries. The most well-known verse in the New Testament starts with “For God so loved the

world” (John 3:16). We, in turn, should love and serve the world and all its inhabitants.

One might argue this statement of confession, taken as a whole, does proclaim, does make statements which are against a multitude of things. But I believe that reading would suggest the other kind of “confession.” That reading *would be* an admission of guilt, guilt on the part of the world, that there is implicit in this Confession constant violations in the world, by the world, of what Christians hold to be true.

One final note: dogma is what someone tells you you need to believe. Doctrine, on the other hand, is simply an explanation of what you believe.

I have often said we, in the United Church of Christ, have absolutely no dogma. No person, no “Confession” tells us what we need to believe.

But we, in the United Church of Christ, have a ton of doctrine. We like to explain what we believe... and explain and explain and explain. Confessions are simply an explanation of beliefs.

That having been said, “See you in church.” Church— a place that is always about proclaiming what we are for.

In Faith,



Joe Connolly

Food Donation Sunday - June 3

Bring in non-perishable food items for donation to Our Daily Bread Food Pantry.

Paper Products and Diapers Sunday - June 17

Bring in personal care items and paper products for Our Daily Bread or disposable diapers for First Baptist Church’s Diaper Giveaway.

Director of Children and Youth Ministries

Linda L. Oehme

We celebrated Pentecost Sunday on May 20th with and Intergenerational Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. We celebrated the gifts of the Spirit that have been given to each of us. There were 12 children and 15 adults plus the choir and congregation participating. The service was a huge success and everybody seemed to love it. We worked together and with God on our side, we can do anything. Stoles and Certificates were awarded while Adult students and VBS Volunteers were recognized.

Church School meets most Sundays at 8:30am. This year we will continue through **June 24th**. The children have picked out four of their favorite Bible stories and we will look at them in a different way. Church School will resume in September.

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday, May 29th, at 7:00 p.m. – the 2nd Norwich Community Vacation Bible School Meeting in the Founders' Room. We are still in need of some leaders.

Vacation Bible School – ***Rolling River Rampage: Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God!***

July 22-26 from 5:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. A list of needed materials that can be donated will be in the July Newsletter and future bulletins.

Updates on the Opportunities for Chenango Service Project

Opportunities for Chenango

By Shea Breese for Norwich Middle School Newspaper Club

Did you know that there are young children who don't have books at home? Toddlers who don't have crayons? Well, there is an organization called *Opportunities for Chenango* that provides these things for children! *Opportunities for Chenango* helps people recognize their strengths, set goals, make responsible choices, and become successful and helpful members of the community.

One of the things that *Opportunities for Chenango* focuses on is child and family development, which is where the UCC and their new program comes in. The UCC (United Church of Christ) recently started a program where you can donate hardcover children's books, crayons, puzzles, and other things that will go to children that currently lack them. All donations can be dropped off at the main office of the UCC. The United Church of Christ is located at **11 W Main St, Norwich, NY 13815**. (Note: See below for items that are still needed.)

If you frequently wonder how you can help your community, this may be the perfect way to do it. Donating things to young children, even donating only one thing, may seem small, but it can really help some people and, to these children, it will make a *big* difference!

Items still needed to fill string bags for 25 children.

Please bring in your items before June 18th.

Toothbrushes - 19

Toothpaste - 22

Crayons - 5

Pencil Sharpeners - 26

Colored Pencil 10 packs - 23

Coloring books - 15

Construction Paper - 27

Writing Tablets (various sizes)- 20

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Griffith, Meena Conant or Shea Breese.

From the Deacons

We are so happy to announce that together with the efforts put forth by our congregation and Tom Rasely's concert, we have \$500.00 to donate to OFC's programs helping with Chenango County's littlest. We also have collected a few boxes of lightly used/new educational items (puzzles, books, crayons, pencils, etc.). New dental products have been collected to facilitate the development of good oral hygiene, yet another need for these young ones.

At the service on **June 24th**, we will present this amazing donation to OFC, along with the items we have collected. In addition, 25 cloth bags filled by the Sunday school kids will also be delivered. A list of what is still needed is on the previous page.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered and donated for this special project thus far!











Transition Committee

Linda Oehme, Chair

The Transition team will meet on July 12th, at 7:00 p.m. We will continue follow our "Stepping Stone" path and serve the UCC Church to the best of our ability in discerning God's plan for the future. Again, please be patient.

June 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Church Office Closed 1:30 p.m. J. Handy, Nave	2
3 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion <i>Food Donation Sunday</i> 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Executive Council Meeting 11:30 a.m. Hand Bells 6:00 p.m. M. Conant Rehearsal, Nave	4 1:30 p.m. J. Handy, Nave 4:00 p.m. K. Given, Founders' Rm. 	5 8:30 a.m. Interfaith Council, Bill's Diner 10:00 a.m. Tutoring, Chapel 1:00 p.m. Quilters, Kitchen 1:30 p.m. J. Handy, Nave 5:00 p.m. M. Conant, Nave, Founders' Rm. 7:00 p.m. Hospice Service of Remembrance. See p. 12.	6 11:00 a.m. Conant Lessons 1:30 p.m. J. Handy, Nave 2:30 p.m. Humer Lessons 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, Chapel 7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave	7 1:30 p.m. J. Handy, Nave 4:00 p.m. Conant Lessons	8 1:30 p.m. J. Handy, Nave	9 
UCCNY Conference Annual Meeting in Syracuse June 7 - 9						
10 8:30 a.m. Church School 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship <i>Music Sunday</i> 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Hand Bells, Nave 3:00 p.m. Pastor Joe at Chenango Valley Home	11 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry, Chapel 1:30 p.m. J. Handy, Nave 4:00 p.m. K. Given, Founders' Rm.	12 10:00 a.m. Tutoring, Chapel 1:00 p.m. Quilters, Kitchen 1:30 p.m. J. Handy, Nave 4:00 p.m. Conant Lessons 	13 9:30 a.m. CAM Mtg., Homer 11:00 a.m. Conant Lessons 1:00 p.m. GMT Meeting, Homer 1:30 p.m. J. Handy, Nave 2:30 p.m. Humer Lessons 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, Chapel 6:30 p.m. Chenango Change, Founders' Rm. 7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave	14 1:30 p.m. J. Handy, Nave 4:00 p.m. Conant Lessons 6:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Founders' Rm.	15 1:30 p.m. J. Handy, Nave 7:30 p.m. Dean - Scharstein Wedding	16 10:00 a.m. Deacons Meeting, Chapel 
17 Father's Day 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, Nave	18 4:00 p.m. K. Given, Founders' Rm. 7:00 p.m. Trustees Mtg., Chapel	19 9:00 a.m. Head Start, Founders' Rm./Nursery 10:00 a.m. Tutoring, Chapel 1:00 p.m. Quilters, Kitchen 4:00 p.m. Conant Lessons 6:00 p.m. Norwich Community Honors Banquet 6:00 p.m. A. Humer, Nave, Mayflower Rm.	20 11:00 a.m. Conant Lessons 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, Chapel 7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave	21 4:00 p.m. Conant Lessons 4:00 p.m. Interfaith Council, Chapel 6:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group Founders' Rm.	22 	23
24 8:30 a.m. Church School (last class) 9:15 a.m. Nursery 10:00 a.m. Worship - Annual Meeting - OFC Presentation 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m. Hand Bells, Nave	25 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry, Chapel 4:00 p.m. K. Given, Founders' Rm. 	26 10:00 a.m. Tutoring, Chapel 1:00 p.m. Quilters, Kitchen 4:00 p.m. Conant Lessons	27 11:00 a.m. Conant Lessons 2:30 p.m. Humer Lessons 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, Chapel 7:00 p.m. Choir, Nave 7:00 p.m. Democratic Committee, Chapel	28 4:00 p.m. Conant Lessons	29 6:00 p.m. Spaghetti Supper Benefit. See p. 13.	30 

Community Honors Banquet

By Joseph Connolly

Once again, the Norwich community is organizing an Honors Banquet, the 21st annual, to celebrate the scholars of the Norwich High School graduating class. The dinner will be held on Tuesday, June 19th.

The committee is pleased to announce that **Gretchen Parker Walsh** (NHS, class of 1989), will address the students being honored. As you may be aware, all the speakers over the years have graduated from the Norwich City School District, furthered their education and returned to serve the Community.

Gretchen holds a Bachelor of Science in Marketing and Economics from Babson College located in Wellesley, Massachusetts. She is the Team Leader and CEO of Keller Williams Upstate NY Properties and along with her husband Kevin owns and operates the Parker Walsh Real Estate Team in Norwich.

Needless to say, this is not so much about the speaker as it is about the students. The scholars we honor achieve an average of 90 or above in their high school career. At the dinner each student is called forward individually and given a certificate which recognizes their accomplishment.

Based on experience we expect the cost of the project to be around \$4,500. We are now soliciting funds from a broad base in the community— businesses, churches and individuals asking for donations and support. If you are interested in financial support of this **Community Event**, one which honors our students for their achievements, all donations, **large or small**, are welcome.

Sports teams have booster clubs. We ask for your support because our “All Academic Team” does not have its own booster club. We don’t even know who qualifies for membership on this team until the March marking period is over. To be clear: without **your** support— **community support**— there would be no banquet.

An account is set up at the district office for donations. Contributions can be made out to the **Norwich City School District** and sent to the District, **89 Midland Drive,**

Norwich, NY 13815, Attention: Wendy Burdick. Please put a memo on the check which says: **Community Honors Banquet.** This is helpful.

Again, this is about our “All Academic Team,” and academics is the core mission of our schools. Following is a list of the students being honored. If you happen to see any of them, take a moment to say “Job well done.” And, if you choose, please support this event which recognizes their achievement by making a contribution.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself, Superintendent Gerard O’Sullivan or the High School Principal Kisten Giglio. Thank you for your help.

2018 Honors Recipients

Benjamin Barber	Cole Olsen
Kalie Binelli	Eleanor O’Neill
Stephanie Carpenter	Derek Rubottom
Michael Carson	Graham Rudy
Adriana Fratini	Gabrielle Schmidt
Madison Hafele	Payten Seiler
Zayn-al-din Harper	Josiah Shaver
Michael Hayes	Brandon Shimer
LeahAnne Humphrey	Destinie Smith
Brianna Kempf	Caroline Stewart
Emily Layman	Holly Sullivan
Randi Marango	Kaitlyn Thomas
Mackenzie Marks	Scott Tomanocy
Luis Martinez Diaz	Michael Trevisani
Wesley Mills	Megan Turner

Community Honors Banquet Speakers

1998 Peggy Raynor '67	2008 Joseph Angelino '78
1999 Matthew Cooney '59	2009 Kurt Edwards '80
2000 Howard Sullivan '60	2010 Doug Wilson '71
2001 Gary Brookins '67	& Sharon Wilson '71
2002 John Brereton '63	2011 Steve Benenati '71
2003 Patrick Newell '85	2012 Timothy Handy '78
& Kate (Newell) Conant '89	2013 Lisa Natoli '94
2004 Donald Chirlin '53	2014 Susan Carson Ryan '85
& Sally Chirlin '53	2015 Amber Perkins '90
2005 Clarence Rappleyea '51	2016 Frank Revoir '84
2006 Anna Marie Ward '77	2017 Terra Carnrike Granata '98
2007 Edward Erickson '68	2018 Gretchen Parker Walsh '89

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.

Proper 4 (9) Second Sunday after Pentecost June 3

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 81:1-10; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12
Mark 2:23-3:6

Proper 5 (10) Third Sunday after Pentecost June 10

1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15); Psalm 138;
Genesis 3:8-15; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1;
Mark 3:20-35

Proper 6 (11) Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 17

1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13; Psalm 20; Ezekiel 17:22-24
Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17
Mark 4:26-34

Proper 7 (12); Fifth Sunday after Pentecost June 24

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49 Psalm 9:9-20 or
1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 18:10-16; Psalm 133 Job 38:1-11
Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

Hospice Service of Remembrance

**June 5, 7:00 p.m. - Guernsey Library Park , downtown Norwich
(rain date June 12)**

Please join Hospice for a candle-lighting ceremony to honor the lives of those who have recently passed. This event is open to anyone in the community who has experienced the death of a loved one. Contact Rachel Barletta, Grief Services Coordinator at 334-3556 for more information.

Thank You Letter

Dear Jane and the Lunch Team!

Our Chenango County Habitat work crew want to thank you all for the very generous picnic lunch we enjoyed last Saturday as we sat on the home's porch! The jar of pickles was a favorite and pickles made their way into most or all of the sandwiches! The chips and cookies were great!

The afternoon "went a lot easier" as the guys said, so "Thanks again for a wonderful lunch!"

Bonnie Graves and

Chenango County Habitat for Humanity Members

Additional notes from the crew:

Thanks for lunch! - Nate

Thanks! - Sam

Great sandwiches and cookies! - Dave

Thank you so much! - Tom & Samantha

B&B pickle, great idea with turkey! Thanks - Jim

Spaghetti Supper to Benefit Natalie Stone

As Natalie continues her chemo journey, her church, Broad St. UMC, continues to pray for her and her family. Natalie's favorite food is spaghetti and meatballs, so they are having a spaghetti supper fundraiser to help her family out.

When: Friday, June 29th

Time: 6 – 8 pm

Where: Broad Street UMC



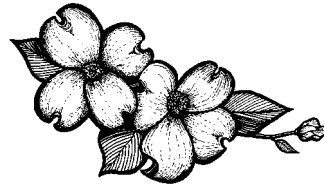
Can't come to the dinner but want to help the Stone family out? You can write your check to Broad Street UMC and put 'Benefit: Natalie Stone' in the memo line. Every dollar you donate will go to the Stone family.

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.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY to **Judy Smith** for the loss of her brother **Jim** who died on May 15, 2018.



Annual Report Reminder

If you are responsible for one of the following, please get your report to the church office by June 4th.

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>



**ROLLING
RIVER
RAMPAGE**

**Sunday - Thursday
July 22 - 26**

**Norwich Community
Vacation Bible School**

Held at United Church of Christ, 11 West Main St.

**Sign in: 5:45 p.m. Pickup: 8:15 p.m.
Ages 3 to 12**

Pre-register at
www.cokesburyvbs.com/UCCNorwichNY
 Or call 607-334-3434.



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.

June

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Jane Prime | 24 | Elizabeth Brewer |
| 5 | Marisol Adams | 25 | Ramona Oehme |
| | Jenna Klicker Bonney | 26 | Brooke Bonney |
| 10 | Catherine Hammons | | Morgan Hagenbuch |
| 11 | Pat Bridge | 27 | June Granz |
| 13 | Jessica Posner | 28 | Jack Brereton |
| 18 | Bill Aitken | | |

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



This issue mailed 05/25/2018.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Moderator: **Robert Oehme**
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Director of Music Ministries: **Mary Williams**
Financial Secretary: **Donna Wood-Craig**
Parish Coordinator: **Cheri Willard**
Counselor, Family Counseling Ministry: **Joanne Ferguson**