

Come to the Table



Union Service
United Church of Christ
and
First Baptist Church
Norwich, New York



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
Norwich, New York 13815**



An Open and Affirming Church

September 4, 2022

10:00 a.m.

**Communion
Union Service with First Baptist Church**

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue in F Major

J. S. Bach

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please sign the attendance pad found in the pew.)

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Take the offbeat path, the lesser-worn trail;

ALL: Seek the deeper wisdom of God, and you will find your way.

ONE: Meet the people on the margins, help those suffering from oppression;

ALL: Follow Jesus, and learn how to love your neighbor and yourself.

(continued)

*Please stand if you are able.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

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ONE: Seek peace by pursuing justice, practicing kindness and mercy;
ALL: Know the Spirit is working all things in you for the goodness of God.
ONE: Come, turn from the ways of the world, and into God's ways;
ALL: The journey may not be easy, but we are in this together.
Come, worship God, follow Jesus, and trust the Holy Spirit. Amen.

INVOCATION

***OPENING HYMN**

This is the Day of New Beginnings
(Tune: BEGINNINGS)

#417

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in heaven hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PASTORAL BLESSING OF PEACE

ONE: May the Peace of Jesus Christ be with you.
ALL: And also with you.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

DISCIPLESHIP PLEDGE (An Offertory Prayer)

ONE: We love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.
ALL: We pledge our whole selves to God.
ONE: We love our neighbors as ourselves.

ALL: We pledge to do justice as Christ's ambassadors of reconciliation.

ONE: We love one another as Jesus loves us.

ALL: We pledge to be and become Christ's Beloved Community in our life together.

ONE: We make disciples by teaching and modeling how to follow Jesus' Way of Love.

ALL: We pledge to be Jesus' disciples sharing Jesus' Way of Love in the way we live our lives and practice our faith.

Offering plates are located at both Nave doors for your convenience.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER:

ONE: Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for revealing your will for us in the giving of the law and in the preaching of the prophets.

ALL: We thank you especially that in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live in our midst, to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved.

ONE: We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave you raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your realm.

ALL: We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world and through which we share the gift of eternal life. With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name: Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Amen.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION: BREAKING BREAD AND
POURING WINE**

*(Please lift up your elements as we break bread and pour
wine)*

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

*(Open and partake of the elements at the time indicated by
the Pastor.)*

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. We are fed
by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We
are sent forth into this world to live into the visions
God has laid on our hearts. We are now
commissioned to feed as we have been fed, to
forgive as we have been forgiven, to love as we have
been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Pew Bible OT p. 639

Luke 14:25-33

Pew Bible NT p. 79

CHOIR ANTHEM

Colorful Creator

Words by Ruth Duck, 1992

Tune: HOUGHTON by Carlton R. Young, 1992

Soloists: Mary Williams, Megan Carpenter,
Elsbeth Hunter (UCC Music Lesson Scholarship Recipient)

SERMON *God Creates*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH (*United Church of Christ
Statement of Faith in the form of a doxology*)

ONE: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,

**ALL: God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and
to your deeds we testify:**

ONE: You call the worlds into being,

**ALL: create persons in your own image, and set before
each one the ways of life and death.**

ONE: You seek in holy love to save all people from
aimlessness and sin.

**ALL: You judge people and nations by your righteous
will declared through prophets and apostles.**

ONE: In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified
and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared
our common lot,

**ALL: conquering sin and death and reconciling the
world to yourself.**

ONE: You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,

**ALL: creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,
tongues, and races.**

ONE: You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy
of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of
others,

**ALL: to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist
the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism
and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and
victory.**

ONE: You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins
and fullness of grace,

**ALL: courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal
life in your realm which has no end.**

ONE: Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.

ALL: Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS/CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

*CLOSING HYMN

Creator God, Creating Still
(Tune: ST. ANNE CM)

#278

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE [organ]

O God, Our Help in Ages Past Victor C. Johnson.
Tune: ST. ANNE, William Croft



Bulletin Notes:

Call to Worship and Invocation

Rev-o-lution Resources by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell

<http://rev-o-lution.org>, (c) 2020.

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Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving

Adapted from Rev. Alydia Smith, United Church of Canada

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Evening Prayer time starts on September 7th from 5 to 6 PM.

Thursday morning Bible Study picks up again on September 15th.

UCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

NURSERY CARE is available for children up to the age of five beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Nursery is located up the stairs at the front of the building. Children are also welcome in the entire the service or can leave after the Children's Moment – whatever works best for your family.

PLEASE REMEMBER to sign the attendance pads found in each pew and pass them on to others in your row. If you've already given us your contact information, you don't need to fill that in each week unless there is a change.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

- 4 Kayla Farrell
- 5 Chad Conant
- 7 Burt Bridge, Maxine Gage
- 8 Janet Johnson, Bob Oehme
- 9 Jay Conant
- 10 Wadeanthony Burke, John Kolb

COLORSCAPE CHENANGO - Saturday September 10, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Sunday September 11, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. in downtown Norwich. Please be reminded that they use our parking lot for handicapped parking during those times. You are welcome to park in our parking lot Sunday morning to get to the church service.

OUR KNITTING GROUP will begin meeting every other Monday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. starting **September 12th**. Anyone who enjoys needlework of any kind is welcome to come and bring a project. The group also makes shawls, scarves and socks for people who may need some prayer and encouragement. For more information, talk to Jane Prime or contact the church office.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help set up for Habitat for Humanity Yard Sale on Wednesday, September 14th at 1:00 p.m. (The Sale is 9/15 to 9/17). Contact Audrey Johnson at 607-843-6249.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL will start up again on September 18th. Jessica Posner will be filling in for Linda Oehme and will be here on the 18th for an in-person and Zoom combination class starting at 9:00 a.m. All school aged children are welcome! For more information, contact the church office at office@uccnorwichny.org or 607-334-3434. For more information, contact the church office at office@uccnorwichny.org or 607-334-3434.

SIGN UP FOR COFFEE HOUR - There are dates available to sign up to provide coffee hour. Check the bulletin board. Keep your receipts and turn them in to the church office for reimbursement. Information and guidance can be provided by Mary Williams, Deacon chair.

THE LIVESTREAM GROUP is looking for a second intern to learn the Livestream Director role. This training will include instruction on the computer and software that are used in generating the weekly livestream of our worship service. If you are interested, please contact Jen Mallozzi at jmallozzi@uccnorwichny.org or the church office at office@uccnorwichny.org, 607-334-3434.

THE LGBTQ+ Forum meets every Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom for discussion, fellowship and fun. If you are interested in joining, contact the church office at 607-334-3434 or office@uccnorwichny.org.

IF YOU NEED HELP with something, please reach out to the church office or a Deacon. We're here to help each other.

UCC CALENDAR

The Chenango Muslim Community meets upstairs daily at 9:30 p.m. & Fridays at 1:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 – Welcome Pastor Jason

- 9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Communion with First Baptist Church, at UCC Nave
Rev. Jason Boyd will share the Word
- 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, Founders' Room
- 6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Forum, Zoom

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 5 - Labor Day

Church Office Closed

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 1:30 p.m. Tutoring, kitchen
- 3:00 p.m. Tai Chi, Founders' Rm.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

- 1:00 p.m. Quilting Circle, Kitchen
- 6:30 p.m. Executive Council Meeting, Zoom

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

- 9:00 a.m. Home Bureau, Founders' Room
- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

- 1:00 p.m. Piecemakers Meeting, Founders' Rm.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle, Zoom
- 12:30 p.m. Colorscape Food Prep, Kitchen

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

8:00 a.m. Colorscape Food Prep, Kitchen

10:00 a.m. Colorscape Festival, downtown, Parking Lot

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

7:00 a.m. Colorscape Food Prep, Kitchen

9:00 a.m. Nursery, upstairs

10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Nave

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour, Founders' Room

11:00 a.m. Colorscape Festival, downtown, Parking Lot

6:00 p.m. LGBTQ+ Forum, Zoom



TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS IN MINISTRY OF SERVICE:

Pastor and Teacher: **Rev. Jason Boyd**

Liturgist: **Ericka Tyler**

Director of Music Ministries: **Mary Williams**

Organist: **Jason Handy**

Live Stream: **Jennifer Mallozzi, Chris McSweeney**

Sunday Sexton: **Elsbeth Hunter**

Nursery: **Fiora Breese**

Usher: **TBD**

Flowers: **Pat Burke**

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS - 9/11

Usher: available

Liturgist: Izzo

Flowers: available

Coffee Hour: available

Watch a live stream of our service Sundays at 10:00 a.m. at
www.uccnorwichny.org/live-stream-2

Past worship services can be viewed at
www.uccnorwichny.org/sermons

September 4, 2022

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

11 West Main St., Norwich NY 13815

607-334-3434 - office@uccnorwichny.org - www.uccnorwichny.org

MINISTERS: All the People

PASTOR AND TEACHER: Rev. Jason Boyd

MODERATOR: John Kolb

CHAIR OF DEACONS: Mary Williams

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES: Mary Williams

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S/YOUTH MINISTRIES: Linda Oehme

PARISH COORDINATOR: Cheri Oakley

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT: Jennifer Mallozzi

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS - By appointment only.

UCC Norwich Reopening Guidelines

Revised 03/31/22

COVID Protocols that have been modified:

- Face coverings in the church building will be optional
- Social distancing of 6 feet is still recommended.
- Childcare will be available again beginning in September 2022
- Parishioners may choose their own seating in the Nave. Distancing between non-family groups is still recommended.
- Hymnals, Pew Bibles will be in the pew racks and may be used.
- Congregational singing is now permitted.
- Prayer requests may be spoken during the worship service or may be submitted in the prayer basket. (Usher will bring microphone around to congregation. Microphone cover will be supplied)
- Coffee Hour will resume April 24, 2022 and will be hosted and coordinated by the Deacons.

COVID Protocols that remain in place:

- Passing of the peace will continue to be suspended at this time.
- Offerings will be collected by placing your envelope in a basket upon entering or exiting the Nave.
- Communion will be offered in the pews using individually portioned elements.
- Hearing assistive devices will be available for those that need them. You will receive the headset in a bag. Please write your name on the bag and store the headset in the same bag for use during future services.
- Hand sanitizing stations are located near the Nave entrance hall and in each pew. Please wash your hands or use sanitizing stations frequently.
- We ask that if you are not feeling well and /or may be exhibiting cold or flu-like symptoms, that you refrain from attending until you feel better.
- Disinfection Plan: our Custodian will disinfect all high touch surfaces, including rest rooms and seating areas, before and/or after weekly services.