





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



An Open and Affirming Church

August 27, 2023

10:00 a.m

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARING TO WORSHIP GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Little Prelude in D minor*

J. S. Bach

WELCOME

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: They went to Jesus, and he asked them:

ALL: Who do you say I am?

ONE: They answered:

**ALL: You are the eschatological manifestation of the
ground of our being, the kerygma of which we find
meaning in our interpersonal relationships.**

ONE: And Jesus said,

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Call to Worship by Rev. Richard Bott

Prayer of Invocation from Christian Aid UK

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ALL: “WHAT?!?!?!”

ONE: Faith doesn't have to be that hard. Life doesn't have to be that difficult.

**ALL: Sometimes, we just have to live God's love.
Sometimes, we just have to live what we believe.**

ONE: And so we are here, simply ...

ALL: To sing, to celebrate, to worship God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***OPENING HYMN** *Jesus Loves Me* # 327
(Tune: JESUS LOVES ME)

TIME OF SHARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PASTORAL BLESSING OF PEACE

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

ALL: And also with you.

SUNG RESPONSE *Peace* by Judy A. Rose

Peace be to you in all you do.

Peace be the way in all you say.

Peace be the light that shines so bright
from your heart on the world this day.

Peace, peace, peace, peace. Peace be to you in all you do.

Peace, peace, peace, peace. Peace be to you in all you do.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND GENEROSITY

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.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:1-8

Pew Bible NT p. 168

SPECIAL MUSIC - Duet: Mary and Pete Williams

Sanctuary with God's Holy Temple

words and music by John Thompson
and Randy Scruggs

Arranged with additional words
and music by Lloyd Larson

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 16:13-20

Pew Bible NT p. 18

REFLECTION *Jesus The Quilt*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INTERLUDE *Agape*

Jim Tidwell

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

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

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.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

***CLOSING HYMN** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* # 472
(Tune: PRECIOUS LORD)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Air

Handel



CALENDAR

The Chenango Muslim Community meets upstairs daily at 9:30pm & Fridays at 1:30pm

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

9:00am Nursery, upstairs

10:00am Worship, Nave

12:00pm Youth Group (grades 7-12), upstairs

MONDAY, AUGUST 28

Deadline for September Newsletter articles.

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

3:00pm Tai Chi, Founders Room

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29

1:00 p.m. Piecemakers, Kitchen

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

11:00am Free hotdog lunch at Emmanuel Episcopal Church

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

September mailed/emailed today.

10:00am Prayer Circle, Zoom

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

9:00am Nursery, upstairs

10:00am Worship/Communion, Nave

11:00am Coffee Hour

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NURSERY CARE is available for children up to the age of five beginning at 9:00am - up the stairs at the front of the building.

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY OF SUMMER YOUTH GROUP for grades 7-12, 12:00pm - 1:30pm, upstairs in the Christian Ed room.

BONNIE CARPENTER is recovering from mysterious neurological symptoms at the Glens Falls Hospital, 100 Park Street, Glens Falls, NY and would love visitors. She is on the 6th Floor Tower. Hospital main line: 518-926-1000.

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY to vote for your choice of carpet for the Nave. Samples are at the back of the Nave.

HOSPICE OF CHENANGO BBQ CHICKEN FUNDRAISER - \$8/Chicken half - Vouchers for sale until 9/1. **Pick up your chicken by 12:30 p.m. on Sunday September 10** at the VFW Post 2782, 61 E Main St., Norwich. To order or for more information call 607-334-3556.

CHENANGO COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ANNUAL LAWN SALE will be held Thursday 9/14 through Saturday 9/16 on Route 12 next to the Mirabito Gas Station in Oxford. To volunteer call Audrey Johnson at 607-843-6249 or e-mail at seatweaving_comics@yahoo.com.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - If you have an article or information for the newsletter, please get it to Cheri Oakley no later than tomorrow, Monday, August 28th.

THE UPPER ROOM Daily Devotional for September/October is now available on the table outside the church office. These are provided for anyone who is interested. And feel free to share one with your friends.

WE ARE STILL WORKING to provide a safe and clean environment for worship and other activities. You can read our full COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS posted on the bulletin board and on our website.

August 27, 2023

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor and Teacher: Rev. Jason Boyd

Liturgist: Ed Tucker

Director of Music Ministries: Mary Williams

Organist: Bob Oehme

Director of Children and Youth Ministries: Ericka Tyler

Live Stream: Chris McSweeney

Nursery: Fiora Breese

NEXT WEEK'S PARTICIPANTS 9/3

Usher:

Liturgist: Ericka Tyler

Flowers:

Coffee Hour:

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: Pete Williams

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES: Mary Williams

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES: Ericka Tyler

PARISH COORDINATOR: Cheri Oakley

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT: Jennifer Mallozzi



CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

Monday - Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.