

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison) Grant, O God, that the ears which have heard the voice of your song may be closed to the voice of clamor and dispute; that the eyes which have seen your great love may also behold your blessed hope; that the tongues which have sung your great praise may speak the truth; that the feet which have walked your courts may walk in the regions of light; and that the bodies which have feasted at your table may be restored in newness of life. Glory be to you, O God. Amen.

* THE CHURCH COVENANT (Inside front cover of hymnal)

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

* HYMN *The Summons* (see insert)

* BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE *Sevenfold Amen*

POSTLUDE *Joyous Day* John Leavitt

*** Those that are able please stand.**

Nursery care is available for the entire service. Children through eighth grade will go to their Sunday School classes after the Children's Message. Parents may pick up their children upstairs following worship. As you arrive and depart during the Prelude and Postlude, please remember to be quiet for the organist or musicians and those who wish to use this time for quiet reflection and prayer.

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Large print bulletins are available from the ushers.

We extend a warm welcome to those who may be visiting this morning. We hope you will feel at home here and invite you to participate fully in the service. Should you wish, please fill out the welcome card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate when it is passed.

Nursery care is available for the entire service. Following the Lord's Prayer all children are welcome to join their teachers in the Church School.

The worship leader today is Dick Broussard.

The flowers today are given by Margo and Rob Titus in honor of their children and grandchildren.

The coffee hour hosts today are Kathy and John Grant.

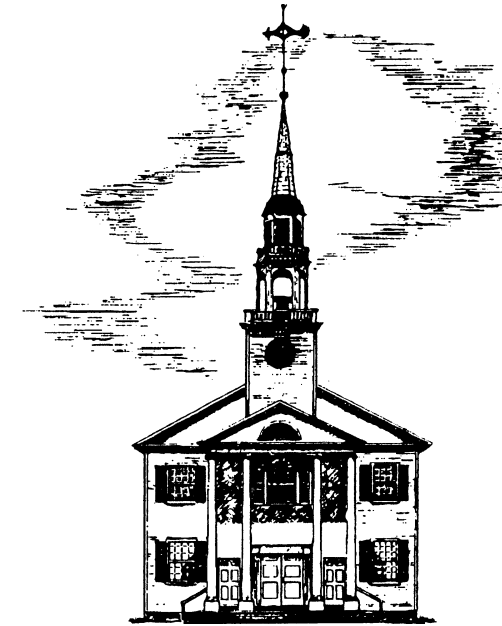
The ushers today are The Miller Family .

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 3, 2013

10:00 am



***Norwich Congregational Church,
U.C.C.***

The Rev. Mary Brownlow, Pastor

Tacy Colaiacomo, Organist
Kathleen Sherlock-Green, Choir Director
Danielle Taylor, Sunday School Coordinator
Jenny Gelfan, Office Manager
Dan Goulet, Sexton

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Office Hours:

Office Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9 – 1, Thursday 10-2

Order of Worship

PRELUDE *Priere du Matin* Joseph Jongen (1873-1953)

CONCERNS OF THE PARISH

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Today, the word of Scripture comes to us:

People: **inviting us to not be afraid,
but to place our faith in God.**

Leader: Today, the words of God come to us:

People: **inviting us to trust in the One who knows us,
to place our hope in the One who saves us.**

Leader: Today, the Word of God comes to us:

People: **inviting us to be gracious in our love
and in our service to others.**

* HYMN *Lift Up Your Hearts* Pilgrim (red) # 352

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Let us in silence remember our own faults and failings.

SILENT PRAYER

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Leader: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness:
to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others and the life of the world.

People: **May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the spirit enable you to grow in love.**

Leader: Amen

People: **Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness:
to the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others and the life of the world.**

Leader: May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the spirit enable you to grow in love

People: **Amen**

Leader: Move among us, O God; give us life

People: **Let your people rejoice in you.**

Leader: Make our hearts clean within us:

People: **Renew us in mind and spirit.**

Leader: Give us again the joy of your help

People: **With your Spirit of freedom sustain us.**

RESPONSE *What Does the Lord Require of You?* Pilgrim (red) # 145

SCRIPTURE READING Jeremiah 1: 4-10 Page 698 (OT)
I Corinthians 13: 1-13 Page 175 (NT)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE *Sent by the Lord* Cuban Traditional
Senior Choir

GOSPEL READING Luke 4: 21-30 Page 61 (NT)

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERMON

Leader: Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back your servant from
presumptuous sins. Let the words of my mouth

People: **And the meditations of our hearts
Be acceptable in Your sight,
O Lord our strength and our redeemer. Amen.**

SERMON Building and Planting

* HYMN *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* New Century (black) # 337

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Chayawen si Ama* Hymn from the Phillipines
Senior Choir

* DOXOLOGY (unison) **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

Many worshipers sing this version of the Doxology. Please feel free to sing another.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation
Communion Prayer
Sharing of the Elements

COMMUNION MUSIC *Elevation IV from Heures Mystiques, Op. 29*
Leon Boellmann (1862-1897)

Calendar Week of February 3, 2012

Sunday, February 3	10:00 am	Worship & Sunday School
	After Worship	Second Hour Discussion
Wednesday, February 6	9:00 am	Bible Study
Thursday, February 7	3:30 pm	Junior Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 pm	Senior Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, February 10	10:00 am	Worship & Sunday School
	After Worship	Annual Meeting

Adult Education Opportunities

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY is now from 9:00 am – 10:00 am on Wednesdays. We read passages from the Bible and have free flowing discussions.

Adult Education: Practical Theology

"Theology" is rooted in the Greek words for "God" and "Words". What are your words for and about God? How do they matter in your daily life? If someone asked you to explain why you are Christian, what would be your "elevator speech?"

For seven weeks, beginning on January 6, we'll have an opportunity to explore or re-examine our theologies during the second hour after worship. Loosely based on the books *What's Theology Got to Do with It?*, by Anthony Robinson, a nationally known and published UCC preacher, teacher, columnist and congregational leader. Join us for some or all of these discussions.

Today Ann Beams will lead a discussion on "Uncomfortable Words That Matter." Do you feel concepts like "sin" and "eschatology" are strange concepts? Are they part of your expression of faith? How do they relate to faith and hope?

The Haven

The Haven would like to teach folks how to use dried beans, peas, quinoa, barley and other grains in their cooking. We would like to give these items out with recipes to try after tasting a sample. It would be best to get them in ½ pound zip lock bags. Please let us know if you can help with this. Also needed: Cereal, beef stew, chili with meat and beverages. And baby formula.

Open and Affirming Congregation

On May 1, 2005 a Congregational Meeting passed the following resolution:
We, the members of the Norwich Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, declare ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation. God created each of us. As recipients of God's grace and love, unearned and freely given, we are called to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Accordingly, we will strive to welcome people of every sexual orientation, ethnic origin, physical or mental ability, economic status, marital status, or age as we welcome all God's children, regardless of any distinction that has become a barrier to the love we are commanded to embody. With God's help, we will work to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

Mission Offering for January and February

SEVCA Fuel Assistance

SEVCA (Southeastern Vermont Community Assistance) was founded on the belief that poverty need not be a permanent condition, that:

- people can be empowered to rise out of poverty, and
- the strength of our communities is measured by the quality of life of everyone within them.

This January and February our church's Mission Offering will be used to support SEVCA's fuel assistance program. SEVCA, founded in 1965 as part of the country's War on Poverty, offers many services and programs to those in need. On their website, they write,

The mission of Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) is "to enable people to cope with, and reduce the hardships of poverty; create sustainable self-sufficiency; and reduce the causes and move toward the elimination of poverty.

SEVCA gives people the knowledge, tools, and support to break the cycle of dependence, and works to find solutions to the deep-seated problems of poverty, largely by empowering and collaborating with those whose lives are affected by it daily.

In addition to fuel assistance SEVCA provides family services and crisis intervention, Head Start, home weatherization, home repair, economic development.

Please give generously, as the cold season is upon us.

Dominican Republic Projects update

On February 16, several members of our church along with other UV friends will join Rita Severinghaus on a 10 day work service trip to the Dominican Republic.

We will be working in a remote village whose residents live practically from meal to meal. Our group will be helping a family replace their deteriorated home, and is fundraising to cover the cost of materials and labor estimated at \$8,000.

Know that if you wish to contribute, any amount will be meaningful and appreciated. Checks may be written to DRP-NCC and include 'House Building Project' in the subject line. We will do a presentation about the trip to the church community following our return.

Communities Against Assault Weapons

As part of the local response to the tragedy of the Sandy Hook School shootings in Newtown, Connecticut a group of volunteers, of which I am a member, has been meeting weekly on Wednesday evenings at the Norwich Congregational Church to support efforts to reduce gun violence. The group is called Communities Against Assault Weapons or "CAAWS". The group drafted a petition for 2013 Vermont town meetings calling for our state and federal legislators to:

1. Ban assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines
2. Require a criminal background check for every gun sold in America
3. Make gun trafficking a federal crime, with real penalties for "straw purchasers" (those who arm criminals.) "

CAAWS has secured sufficient signatures for the petition to be considered for inclusion on the ballot in Norwich, Thetford, Strafford, Woodstock, and hopefully other area towns. I am planning to submit the petition to the Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference of the UCC in June. In line with this effort, I hope to ask our Congregation to discuss this petition and perhaps vote on it under the other business section of the 2012 Annual meeting.

New volunteers are always welcome to join CAAWS.

Warning of the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Norwich Congregational Church, UCC

Notice is hereby given of the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Norwich Congregational Church, UCC to be held after worship on Sunday, February 10, 2013 to transact the following business:

- to hold opening Prayer;
- to elect a Moderator and an Assistant Moderator;
- to approve the Minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting;*
- to discuss and adopt the following revisions to the by-laws as recommended by the Church Council;
 - On page 10, #7: Collector
The Collector and Assistant Collector shall collect all offerings taken during services of worship and follow procedures determined by the Board of Trustees for accounting and depositing these funds.
 - On page 11, #8: Auditor
The Auditor shall verify the accounts of the church according to procedures determined by the Board of Trustees.
 - On page 20, # 6: Stewardship
The Stewardship Committee shall usually consist of three (3) members, plus a representative from the Board of Trustees...
- to discuss and adopt a budget for 2013;
- to hear and act on the reports of the officers and committees; to elect officers, boards, and committees for 2013;
- to conduct whatever other business may properly be brought before the meeting.

The meeting will be preceded by a potluck lunch; please bring food to share. In case of inclement weather, the Annual Meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday February 12, 2013.

** Minutes are printed in the Annual Report.*

Childcare will be available during annual meeting. Please let Danielle know if you need childcare.