

WELCOME to worship at United Church of Christ in Norwell. Whether you are a member or affiliate member of our church, a frequent attendee, or a first time visitor, we are truly glad you are here and invite you to participate in the many opportunities for worship, growth and service. We hope you will find your time here to be meaningful and the congregation welcoming. At the conclusion of the postlude, please join us for conversation and refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

LISTENING DEVICES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED, LARGE PRINT BULLETINS, AND LARGE PRINT HYMNALS ARE AVAILABLE. An usher or deacon would be happy to assist you with any of these needs. A CD of this morning's service will be available for \$2.00 in the sound room (back left corner of the sanctuary), or you may borrow a copy through the church library.

Child care during summer worship is available for infants through age four downstairs in room 10.

Activity bags are available for children to use in the library (a Deacon or usher can direct assist you). Audio of the worship service can be heard in the library as well. Please note that a parent must remain with their child(ren) in the library to supervise them.

The Deacons today are Cathy Huycke and Larry Howell.

The flowers on the pedestal today are given by Gwen Morgan in memory of her mother, Fern Wingate, and in celebration of her 34-year anniversary to hubby, John Morgan.

"Prayer Chairs" (with prayer shawls on them) are located in the back right corner of the sanctuary. You are invited to come to them any time during our service. A prayer partner from our Healing and Wholeness Ministry Team will lay hands on your shoulders and *silently* pray for you. You do not need to tell them your specific prayer concern, unless you choose to do so.

Parking notes: The front driveway and rear parking lot have reserved spaces for handicapped parking. Also, some members require easier access through the front door. Please save the front driveway and marked spaces in back for those who need them.

Flower donations: A sign-up calendar is located in Fellowship Hall *on the bulletin board near the doorway to the elevator and back stairs*. You will receive a form a few weeks before the date you have signed up for inquiring about details for your donation (flowers cost \$35).

Allergy Alert! - We have children in our church community who have life-threatening allergies to nuts and eggs. Did you know that a simple smear of peanut butter (*or the oils not washed away with soap*) can cause a child to stop breathing within 1-2 minutes? (Anti-bacterial wipes or instant hand sanitizers *do not* take care of the problem.) Thank you for your help!

Please note: Our **Church School for All Ages** does not meet during the summer, but will resume again on September 24.



United Church of Christ, Congregational
An Open and Affirming Church

Ministers to the World
Ministers to the Congregation

All the Congregation
All the Staff

June 25, 2017

9:00 a.m.

We Gather in God's Name

CALL OF THE BELL

WELCOME

Rev. Nancy Sorokoff

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively) Psalm 145:1-4

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.
**One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.**
Come, let us worship the Lord.

*HYMN #25 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* v. 1, 4, 5 *LODE DEN HERREN*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Bibsy O'Donoghue

Faithful God, to you a thousand years go by as quickly as a day. We confess that our minds are so set on the concerns of the moment that we often fail to see beyond them to the eternal realities. Forgive us, and teach us to look to you in every need. Grant us courage and vision that we may never let the past set limits on the future. Lead us this day, we pray, that we continue to walk in the way of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all and has compassion for all that God has made.

*HYMN *Open the Eyes of My Heart* Paul Baloche

We Receive God's Word

SCRIPTURE Genesis 26:1-25

SERMON *On Being Average* Rev. Nancy Sorokoff

ANTHEM *Blessings* Laura Story
Paul Haight, solo

We Respond to God's Love

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Bibsy O'Donoghue

Response (all seated) #586 *Open My Eyes, That I May See* Clara Scott

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR RESOURCES

Offertory *Variations on "The Humble Heart"* Shaker Hymn;
Theme - Allegro - Cantabile - Presto Arr. Robert Lau
Karen Harvey, organ

Please sign and pass the Red Book (in aisle seats) so we may greet each other by name. If you are with us for the first time, please add your contact information.

*Doxology *LASST UNS ERFREUEN*
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; One God, Triune, whom we adore:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication

*THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*HYMN #339 *Just as I Am, Without One Plea* v. 1, 2, 4 WOODWORTH

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (seated) *Praise to the Lord* *LODE DEN HERREN*
Karen Harvey, organ Arr. David Cherwien

*Standing to praise God

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We are a Christ-centered inclusive community called to ministry.