

*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 Mark Nittel and Bibsy O'Donoghue.

**The flowers on the pedestal** today are given by Karen Harvey in memory of her mother, Athena Harvey, whose birthday is July 23.

**"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**

**July 23, 2017**

**9:00 a.m.**

We Gather in God's Name

**CALL OF THE BELL**

**WELCOME**

Rev. Nancy Sorokoff

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

**You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord you know it completely.**

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

**Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.**

\*HYMN

#6 *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* v. 1, 3, 4

MIT FREUDEN ZART

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Carrie Sorokoff

**Merciful God, we confess that we do not always see your grace in our lives because our eyes are set on our problems and our fears. We put our hopes in outward things and neglect the things of the Spirit. We pray that you will forgive our lack of faith, remove our spiritual blindness, and lighten our**

**darkness, that we may discern the true values life, and live as faithful followers of Jesus Christ our Lord. Hear now our personal confessions...**  
(silent prayer)...**Hear our prayer, O Lord. Amen**

### ASSURANCE OF GRACE

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Jesus said, "Be of good cheer. Your sins are forgiven." Believe this good news, and live in peace.

**\*HYMN** *He Has Made Me Glad* Leona Von Brethorst

We Receive God's Word

**SCRIPTURE** Genesis 28: 10-19

**SERMON** *Climbing to Heaven* Rev. Nancy Sorokoff

**ANTHEM** *My Tribute* Andraé Crouch  
Pick-up Choir Paul Haight, solo

We Respond to God's Love

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** Carrie Sorokoff

Response (all seated) #570 *Sweet Hour of Prayer* v.3 William Bradbury

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! thy wings shall my petition bear  
to him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless.  
And since he bids me seek his face, believe his word, and trust his grace,  
I'll cast on him my every care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

### OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR RESOURCES

Offertory *I Will Exalt You* Mark Patterson

*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

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** *We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder* *SPIRITUAL*

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER** (debts/debtors) Hand in Hand

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**\*HYMN** #577 *Nearer, My God to Thee* v. 1-3 *BETHANY*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** (seated) *Sing Praise to God!* Arr. Paul Laubengayer  
Karen Harvey, organ

\*Standing to praise God

Rev. Leanne S. Walt ❖ lwalt@uccnorwell.org, phone ext. 12 ❖ Lead Pastor  
Rev. Deborah Spratley ❖ dspratley@uccnorwell.org, ext. 11 ❖ Associate Pastor  
Cathy Benedict ❖ cbenedict@uccnorwell.org, ext. 25 ❖ Minister of Children's Education  
Diana Dunphy ❖ contact through Debbie in church office ❖ Office Assistant  
Karen Harvey ❖ kharvey@uccnorwell.org, ext. 16 ❖ Minister of Music  
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Scott MacPherson ❖ contact Debbie in church office ❖ Property Manager  
Jerry Thornell ❖ jthornell@uccnorwell.org, ext. 21 ❖ Executive Minister  
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*We are a Christ-centered inclusive community called to ministry.*