

The Organ at United Church of Christ, First Congregational Norwich, New York

The first organ of which there is a record was built by George N. Andrews of Utica, New York in 1862, and contained twelve stops and one octave of pedals.

In 1884, a new organ was built by Johnson and Son, Westfield, Massachusetts . The organ had three manuals, one octave of pedals and a tracker action. The console of the organ was located in the front of the church. The pipes were encased by beautiful, artistically decorated show pipes. The Johnson Company was noted for producing instruments of great balance and cohesion of tone. The flutes and strings were especially mellow and pleasing to the ear. The Norwich First Congregational Church was one of the few churches in upstate New York to have a Johnson organ.

In 1952, the instrument was reconstructed by the Estey Organ Company of Brattleboro, Vermont. An electro-pneumatic action was installed to replace the old tracker action and new chests were designed and three new ranks of pipes were added.

The church was remodeled in 1959 and a new smaller nave was designed to accommodate 250-300 people. Because of this major change in size and location in the building, the organ had to again be remodeled and relocated. The great and swell chests were placed in the front of the nave and the choir chest was located in the balcony, next to the choir loft. The organ console was also relocated in the choir loft. No major changes were made in the voicing or registration of the organ. The chimes were located in the belfry.

In 1985, the organ was once again updated to improve its sound and versatility. The Kerner and Merchant Pipe Organ Company was retained to rebuild the organ so that the size and quality of the organ sound would be more suitable for the size and acoustics of the nave. Pipes were rescaled and revoiced to be used in other divisions of the organ. New, more suitably sized pipes were added and one wind chest was replaced.

The most recent reconstruction of the organ was begun in April, 1994 and completed in 1995 by the Wicks Pipe Organ Company of Highland, Illinois. A new console with solid state electronic components, an optical keying system and a 13-position transposer was installed. MIDI capability was included to enable use in the future of a smaller, companion console in the front of the sanctuary. Leathers were replaced with new electromagnetic direct-electric action. New wind chests were installed. After removing all pipes for complete revoicing the organ chambers were insulated and architecturally restructured to allow for re-installation of the pipes, with the Choir division moved to the swell chamber, thus bringing all divisions of the organ together in the front of the nave, once again. With the installation of some new pipes and revoicing of the remaining ones, the process of revamping the original Johnson organ for use in a smaller sanctuary has taken another major step towards the 21st Century.

United Church of Christ, First Congregational
 Norwich, New York

ORGAN SPECIFICATIONS

Great (non-expressive)

Open Diapason	8'
Rohr Flute	8'
Octave	4'
Hohl Flute	4'
Twelfth	2 2/3'
Fifteenth	2'
Mixture	III
Trumpet (swell)	8'
Chimes	

Swell (expressive)

Lieblich Gedeckt	16'
Open Diapason	8'
Stopped Flute	8'
Salicional	8'
Voix Celeste	8'
Principal	4'
Flute Harmonique	4'
Flautino	2'
Quint	1 1/3'
Cornet	II
Trumpet	8'
Oboe	8'
Tremelo	

Choir (expressive)

Geigen Principal	8'
Sitz Flute	8'
Flute Celeste	8'
Fugara	4'
Spitz Flute	4'
Principal	2'
Mixture	II
Cromorne	8'
Chimes	
Tremelo	

Pedal

Resultant	32'
Open Diapason	16'
Bourdon	16'
Lieblich Gedeckt	16'
Principal	8'
Bourdon	8'
Octave	4'
Mixture	III
Trombone	16'
Trumpet (swell)	8'
Cromorne (choir)	4'

Couplers

Swell to Great	16'
Swell to Great	8'
Swell to Great	4'
Choir to Great	16'
Choir to Great	8'
Choir to Great	4'
Swell to Choir	16'
Swell to Choir	8'
Swell to Choir	4'
Swell to Swell	16'
Swell Unison	
Swell to Swell	4'
Choir to Choir	16'
Choir Unison	
Choir to Choir	4'
Great to Pedal	8'
Swell to Pedal	8'
Swell to Pedal	4'
Choir to Pedal	8'
Coir to Pedal	4'