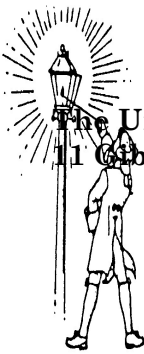


The United Church
Presbyterian-American Baptist
11 Gibson Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424


Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 26
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Or Current Resident



The United Church
11 Gibson Street

The Lamplighter



Canandaigua, NY
585-394-0503

Worship Service, 8:45 and 11:00 am

December 2023

Rev. Dr. Wade Allen




- Dec 2 – Christmas Ceilidh Band Concert, 7 pm
- Dec 3 – First Sunday of Advent
- Dec 4 – Joint Official Board/Trustees meeting, 7 pm
- Dec 5 – Stewards, 7 pm
- Dec 8 – Youth Mall Trip
- Dec 9 – Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Runnings
- Dec 10 – Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra Concert, 3 pm
- Dec 16 – Christmas Organ Concert, 7 pm
- Dec 17 – Christmas Pageant, 10 am
- Dec 24 – Morning worship only at 11 am (no 8:45), Christmas Eve service at 7 pm
- Dec 23-Jan 1 – Church Office is closed
- Dec 31 -- Morning worship only at 11 am (no 8:45)

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SPECIAL MEMBER UPDATES:

Special Members are those in their 90s, and/or who are homebound, in nursing homes, or need temporary special care. **They really appreciate cards from their church family!!**

 **Dec. 14th - Esther Pullis** is turning 93! She has been a member for 28 years, joining in 1995 with her late husband, Claude. Esther has participated in church life in many ways over the years, with Circle 7, pre-school Sunday School, and on staff as Co-Director of Visitation with Claude. Esther resides at Quail Summit where she enjoys the morning exercise classes and she helps find ambassador mentors for new residents; yay Esther!! She has two adult children, five grandkids, and seven great-grandkids! She’s looking forward to celebrating with them over the holidays. *Happy Birthday Esther!*



TO OUR CONGREGATION: In December of each year, the Stewards coordinate a **Christmas Card Ministry** for our Special Members. Please see the page in this Lamplighter which lists all of our Special Members with their addresses - they would be so happy to receive Christmas cards from their church family! **There is a supply of Christmas cards in the Welcome Center;** feel free to take a few and send some jolly cheer to these members.



CELEBRATING:
Congratulations to **Aaron Vit**, who married **Piper Dean** on November 19th. Aaron’s proud parents are **Bob Vit and Allyson Haymes**. Please keep the newlyweds in your prayers during this special time.

MEMBER CARE: If you are aware of anyone in our church family who is ill, having surgery, who had a death in the family, is having troubles in some way? Are you missing your neighbor who sits in the pew next to yours? Or do you know someone who has a happy occasion to celebrate, please let us know!! The Staff works with the **Outreach and Congregation Care Committee** to connect with members of our church family who need encouragement and recognition. *We care about you!* Call the church office or Congregation Care Committee Chair: Sue Vadney, at (585) 739-8615

DECEMBER GREETERS:

Would you be able to serve as a Greeter for any of the Sunday Services in **December or for the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service?**

Greeters play an important role in extending **hospitality** in our church on Sundays. They welcome people as they enter the church building, they hand out Bulletins, and they collect the offerings during the Sunday Service. This is a role where kids can help too!



The **Sign-up Sheet** is on the **Church Office door**. Reminders and instructions are emailed the Friday before your scheduled Sunday. If you have any questions about being a Greeter, please contact the **December Steward of the Month, Sue Ann Clemens** or any Steward or Staff member. *We really appreciate your service!*

WE COULD REALLY USE SOME HELP.....

The **Stewards Assistance Fund** balance is critically low at this time so the donations (loose money - coins and cash) placed in the Offering Plates on **Dec. 3rd** (Communion Sunday) will be very much appreciated. We take this collection six times per year, however you may write a check *anytime* to *The United Church*, with a note: “Stewards Fund.”

We have made 19 distributions this year so far. Your donations go to those in our church family who are experiencing financial challenges. If *you* need some assistance *or know of someone* in our church family who does, please contact Virginia Holroyd at the Church. The recipients of these funds are very, very appreciative!!



Thank you for helping your church family!

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form



PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____

I would like to order _____ Poinsettias at \$11.00 each.

They are given in memory or honor (circle one) of:

1. _____

Given by: _____

2. _____

Given by: _____

3. _____

Given by: _____

Please pick up your poinsettia(s) after the 11:00 am service on Dec 24th or the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service.

Checks payable to: "The United Church Stewards - Poinsettia "

Place your form and check in the offering plate or mail to the church at 11 Gibson St., Canandaigua 14424

ORDERS MUST BE IN BY DECEMBER 3rd



Special Member addresses for Christmas cards here...

(removed for online posting, call the office if you need addresses!)



Longing for Jesus

Advent is about anticipating. Christmas decorations appear in stores, homes, and churches, reminding us that December 25 is not far away. We prepare as we look forward to time with family, rest from everyday work and school schedules, and special gatherings. We begin to purchase gifts, make travel plans, and develop menus. We know that Christmas is coming, and we need to be ready.

Similarly, the season of Advent is about anticipating Jesus. The people in the first century looked forward to God fulfilling prophetic writings about a coming Messiah. For hundreds of years, they were looking for the words of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and others to come to fruition.

This year, we will follow the lectionary passages (particularly the prophet Isaiah) through the season of Advent. These passages call us to wake up to all God is doing in our world, to pay careful attention to God's Word, and to anticipate God's gift through Jesus.

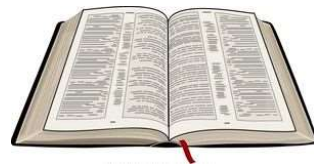
If you have peered ahead to your December calendar, you might already know that Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve are on Sundays this year. We will gather in a combined service on these Sundays at 11 AM. We will celebrate the final Sunday of Advent on Christmas Eve at an 11 AM service. Our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service at 7 PM is a beautiful way to usher in Christmas Celebrations. On December 31, we will gather for a unique service focused on prayer as we prepare to bring in the new year—no 8:45 AM services on Christmas or New Year's Eve.

I look forward to celebrating the coming of Jesus and preparing our hearts for the new year.

Wade

Worship Schedule and Readings

- December 03 - Come Lord Jesus, Come (Isaiah 64:1-9)
Additional Readings: Mark 13:24-37, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
- December 10 - Good News (Isaiah 40:1-11)
Additional Readings: Mark 1:1-8, 2 Peter 3:8-15a
- December 17 - God's Covenant (Isaiah 61:8-11)
Additional Readings: Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
- December 24 - Mary's Faith (Luke 1:26-38) (11 AM)
Additional Readings: Psalm 89:19-26, Romans 16:25-27
- December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service (7 PM)
- December 31 - Special Prayer Service for the New Year (11 AM)



The QR code to the right will also take you to the streaming page



PODCAST

You can now listen to sermons (old and new!) as podcasts!

You can reach them through our website here: <http://uccdga.org/podcast>

Or wherever you usually listen (Spotify, Apple Podcasts, etc.) just search for the United Church of Canandaigua channel.

These podcasts are audio only of just the sermon portion of the service, perfect to listen to on your commute (most are 15-20 minutes long). We are still working on getting all of the older ones loaded, they go back to 2012!



The Annual Meeting of the United Church will be held after the second service, in the Dining Room, on **Sunday, January 21, 2024**. Immediately after the 11:00 service the youth will host a baked potato and salad lunch. This will be followed by the Annual Meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the 2024 budget, elect officers, review the activities of 2023, and do any other business appropriate to the meeting.

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Our Adult Education Retreat produced a number of takeaways. Over the next several Lamplighters, I aim to share snippets from our retreat to serve as important reminders. The reminders will be focused on the **uncommon approaches** to ministry in a polarized context, as well as the steps suggested for **cultivating a missional posture** (as opposed to an adversarial posture) when planning for dialogue. For those who did not attend the retreat, I still encourage you to consider these approaches within the context of all sorts of divisive issues. This month, I'd like to share the uncommon approaches that Dr. Cullum shared with us, as follows:

Choose...

Relationship over curiosity
Friendship over fixing
Dialogue over debate
Respect over rejection

Expect...

A long journey rather than a short sprint

Begin...

With the end in mind

Below is my personal reflection on these uncommon approaches. *What reflections do you have?*

These approaches remind me of a healthy family. Perhaps we all have experienced moments where these approaches were used (or not). In my analysis of this list as a whole, it seems that committed relationship is key. When it comes to our church family, may we continue to nurture our relationships with one another. Whenever the time comes to engage in sensitive conversation, I pray that healthy, faith-based relationships aid our journey.

These uncommon approaches also remind me of the numerous accounts of Jesus and His disciples. Relationship, friendship, dialogue, and respect cause me to recall several moments recorded in the gospels (e.g. when Jesus would eat with “the enemy” in their own homes). On the other hand, I can think of a number of times where - at least when it came to the disciples – the common approaches were used instead (e.g. the disciples turning away babies while Jesus was sharing parables).

Jesus also reminded His followers to keep the end in mind. May we do the same! We are kingdom people, on a long journey, who rely on the promises of God. In the end, God returns. We, as believers in the Good News, get to joyfully share this Good News with the rest of the world, and invite others to join in on the celebration!



Mark Slomski | Pastor of Youth & Adult Ministry | Mark.Slomski@uccdga.org | 585-455-7491

ADULT ED MINISTRY

Reflections & Learnings

The **Adult Education Sunday School Hour** continues! We have concluded our series titled Theology of Sex. We now have the following groups available: Advent Study (Downstairs Dining Hall); Parenting Coffee Hour (Fellowship Room); and the Young Adult group (Bell Tower Room).

Our **Young Adult** lunch continues on Sundays, 12:00 PM – 12:50 PM, after service (and before football!). If you have an interest in providing (and/or hosting) a meal for this special group, please contact Mark Slomski.

Our **Corporate Prayer Initiative** continues! After a season of discernment, we have combined our corporate prayer sessions into the 9:00 AM time slot. The activity is quite simple: *come, pray, and leave!* It is a wonderful time for us to pray to God, praise God and asking for guidance (and other things!).

The **Adult Education Ministry Team** continues its efforts and planning for the 2024 Sunday school groups. Please continue to keep this team in your prayers as they serve on this team!

A small group of young adults are preparing for their trip to the **2024 Passion Conference** in Atlanta, Georgia. Please pray for this group for safe travels, relationship building, and the growing of their faith!

Looking Forward

Sunday School Hour – Weekly 9:45 AM – 10:45 AM

Young Adult Lunch – Weekly 12:00 PM – 12:50 PM

Men’s Breakfast – Wednesday’s @ 7:00 AM

Young Adult Conference Trip – January 3-5



Financial Items

Treasurer's Financial Summary for Oct 2023

Description	Jan-Oct 2023 Actual	10 month Budget
Income		
Total Giving	368,242.79	342,916.67
Other Income	12,837.60	40,778.05
Total Income	381,080.39	383,694.72
Spending		
Education and Ministry	25,140.19	30,000.00
Operating	52,827.52	51,291.67
Personnel & Related	293,792.06	302,403.05
Total Expenses	371,759.77	383,694.72
Net Income Year to Date	9,320.62	0.00

From January through October, we have taken in \$9,320.62 more than we have spent. We are still doing better than anticipated. We have spent \$208,268.87 on capital projects including the downstairs renovation, drinking fountains, concrete repair, gutter replacement and new exit doors. This funding comes from a separate account and is not included above. Thank you for your faithful giving!

Nancy Lamberson
Treasurer

Online Giving

Our new church management program makes online giving very easy! Access it through our website, app, or scan this QR code. You can give one-time gifts or set up recurring giving to happen on whatever schedule you choose.



Stewardship



If you have not sent in your pledge for your 2024 giving yet, pledge forms are available at church or by scanning this QR code. Paper forms can be brought on Sundays or mailed to the church office. Our Goal is 150 families pledging! Check the status on the scarecrow poster outside the main office. As of this printing (11/21/23) we’ve had 90 families pledge.





On **December 17** we will be receiving our annual **Special Christmas offering** which gives us the opportunity to help others as we celebrate God’s perfect gift to us. As always, the United Church splits offerings received between the Baptist and Presbyterian denominations. The Baptist half will be split between The American Baptist Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering and the American Baptist America for Christ Offering. The other half will be given to the Presbyterian Joy Offering.

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering is a long-standing tradition established in 1977 which supports ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses who have devoted 15 or more years of their lives to service in ABCUSA.

The America for Christ offering impacts thousands – through ministries with marginalized children, mission trips that transform lives torn asunder by hurricanes, resources that cultivate Christian leaders, chaplains who bring comfort to hospitals and nursing homes, and much more.

The Presbyterian Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. It also promotes education and leadership development through Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Thank you for your generous support of these three very important special offerings which we have combined into our Special Christmas Offering. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!



Big news at Family Promise!



Family Promise has been discussing changing from the current emergency apartment model to a Static Site model for at least a year. A static site would provide rooms for several families with shared living rooms and kitchen. It would also provide space for offices and rooms for classes. The announcement from Family Promise:

The Molly and Ed Shill Cares Foundation is purchasing the historic Cobblestone Manor at 495 N Main Street and will donate the building to Family Promise of Ontario County. This building, which has previously served as a senior housing facility and as a medical clinic, has been in our sights for nearly a year, but we couldn’t find a realistic

financial way forward. The Shill family’s extravagant generosity has made this long-term dream possible! (Visit the Molly & Ed Shill Cares Foundation at www.shillcares.org.) The Canandaigua Planning Commission gave unanimous approval for the project, pending acceptance of the eventual site plan.

This is very exciting news but won’t happen overnight. The static site will take at least a year to complete renovations and a capital campaign to fund the renovations. Updates will be shared as progress is made.

Additionally, our church has agreed to provide two Christmas gifts for each of the children associated with the family in the Saltonstall apartment. The tags for these will be part of the Angel Tree in the Gathering Area. This is a wonderful way for the church to remain connected with this family!

Join the United Church December 9 Bell Ringing Team

A United Church team will man the Red Kettle on Saturday, December 9.

Join as a family or with a friend to volunteer one hour raising funds for our community. At Runnings, we will ring by the kettle in the entrance with protection from potentially cold wind or snow. A sign-up sheet is on the Adult Ed bulletin board to volunteer for one hour.



The Canandaigua Salvation Army has provided some new mattresses for Called to Care Canandaigua, a food van delivering meals in July to our flood victims, assistance to individuals referred by our church staff and assistance to multiple people in our community in 2023. Thank you for volunteering!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Reflections & Learnings

The Cause youth program on Sunday evening continues! We are currently journeying together through questions such as “Can I Be a Christian and Still Believe in Evolution?” Recently, we coordinated a packing party for **Operation Christmas Child** shoeboxes. We packed the boxes, prayed over them, and donated some money towards shipment. In December, we will be hosting a Christmas party at our last Cause event before Christmas.

Our **Youth Ministry Team** continues their faithful work in youth ministry! There is much work coordinated around our programs, fundraisers, special events, trips, and more. We are blessed with our members, who graciously use their gifts to support our youth. In 2024, we will be inviting our Youth Sunday School teachers to join our team as we discern together how we continue our ministry for our youth.

Our **Youth Sunday School** continue their activities between church services! As of this writing, our Middle School students are learning about **Christmas Characters**: the impact the first Christmas had on the people who were there, what those involved when through leading up to the first Christmas, and the roles of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and Jesus. For our High School students, they are journeying through a series titled **Death to Life**, where our group will learn about how resurrection can be found in Christ alone.

The **Middle School Youth Club** group has recently covered sessions about forgiveness, community, and being known by God. As we venture into December, our group will be in a series titled: **I’m Never Alone – Here with Us**.

There were no **Special Events** in November. In December, we look forward to our annual Christmas Mall Shopping Trip, and our 2024 Calendar youth fundraiser! This fundraiser aids our students in covering some of the cost for their 2024 mission trips, including Camp Barnabas and Group Workcamp Week of Hope.

Monthly School Youth Connects are underway! All of our school districts have completed their second round of connections. These mid-week connections are aimed at providing positive connections with their faith family. This is also a great time for the parents to connect with one another, as well! Check out the dates below for the next connection dates, times, and locations.

Looking Forward

Annual Mall Trip – December 8 – 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM (Registration online).

Connect Canandaigua – December 13 @ 6:45 AM (North Road Tim Horton’s)

Connect Marcus Whitman – December 18 @ 2:30 PM (Gorham Free Library)

Connect Victor – December 20 @ 6:45 AM (Main Street Tim Horton’s)

Princess Pajama Party & Young Lions Event – January 19 – Overnight Event!



Mark Slomski | Pastor of Youth & Adult Ministry | Mark.Slomski@uccdga.org | 585-455-7491

CHILDREN’S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Upcoming Events...

- Saturday, December 2** – Christmas Ceilidh Band concert at 7pm
- Sunday, December 3** – Advent begins
- Sunday, December 10** – FLSO Holiday Concert at 3pm
- Saturday, December 16** – Christmas pageant practice at 9am; Christmas Organ Concert (Ivan Bosnar) at 7pm
- Sunday, December 17** – Christmas Pageant at 10am
- Sunday, December 24** – *No Early Service or Sunday school*; **4th Sunday of Advent** service at **11am**
– **Christmas Eve Candlelight** service at **7pm**
- Sunday, December 31** – *No Early Service or Sunday school*; **Prayer service** at **11am**
- Sunday, January 7** – 8:45am service, 9:45am Sunday school resumes for all ages; 11am service

Personal reflection...

This time of year is typically busier for everyone with holiday gatherings, travel, special events, and time spent with family and friends. While all these things are good, do we need to do it all? When making decisions, I try to pause and ask, is this my (or my family’s) “best yes”? Years ago, I walked through a Bible study about a “best yes,” and it was one that has really stuck with me. Why? I think for two main reasons. First of all, one thing I learned in that study was that every time I say “yes” to something, I am saying “no” to something else. I have learned in life, and especially in ministry, I need to have boundaries to guard my time with the Lord, with Ryan, and with my children. I also need a balance in order to care for myself. Sometimes, I have to say no, and that’s ok. The other reason this “best yes” study stuck with me is because it was and is so counter-cultural. Our culture seems to glorify being busy. It is evident that our culture equates being busy with success and achievement. To say, “I’m so busy” often seems to mean “I’m so important!”

This worldly view leaves me wondering, are the people and families who are so busy really thriving? Or are they simply surviving day to day? Are children today, many of whom are dragged from school to a variety of other activities most nights of the week, really flourishing? Or are they wishing they had more time to be kids-to play, to create...? While it is easy to justify everything we have on our calendar, I also think it is wise to pause and think about each commitment. We might do this on a monthly basis, or less often. Of course, some things must be done (sleeping, eating, working), but for the many optional events that fill our calendar, those deserve more thought. How will it affect me and my family if we say “yes” to this? Sometimes, I find I am saying “no” to things that are positive, but they simply don’t work for the season I/we are currently in. And that’s ok. We are commanded to rest. We can’t rest if we are always on the go. We flourish and thrive when we rest. It’s counterintuitive and counter-cultural. Busy is glorified by the world, but we are called to glorify God. I pray my choices to glorify Him as much as possible. How can you and I be less busy this Advent season?

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.” Proverbs 16:3

Supply a Smile – Free Dental care for those who *do not* have dental insurance!
Saturday, December 2, starting at 8:30am
at the Canandaigua Elementary School cafeteria



Come early to be one of the first 20 individuals to be screened.
Care begins with a dental screening to determine care needed. Patients are then referred to various dental offices where the procedures are done. Dental care is important to your overall health! We are grateful for this important service! Please come if you have a need.
Questions? Call 585-376-2242 or email supplyasmile@gmail.com

Miscellaneous Things...

POINSETTIA ORDERS – DUE SUN. DEC 3rd ~ Enjoy the beautiful colors of the Christmas season with a poinsettia plant! The order forms are due by **Sunday, December 3rd**, Please note if the plant(s) are being named in memory of, or in honor of your loved ones or friends. Order forms are in the Welcome Center and are included in this Lamplighter.



Please place your order form in an Offering Plate or in the Office, or mail to the Church Office at 11 Gibson St., Cdga, 14424. Checks payable to: The United Church Stewards; \$11/plant. The plants will be delivered in mid-December to decorate the church and you may take them with you after the 11:00am Service on 12/24, or the Christmas Eve 7:00pm Service.

Though the church office will be **closed from Dec 25 through Jan 1**, we will be checking phone and email messages, so please let us know if you have any prayer requests or need to contact a staff member. There will be folks about, but the flexibility for the staff to work from home as we’re able during the holiday week is a special treat.



Change of address: Shirley has moved to Quail Summit!

Shirley Kem
5102 Parrish Street Ext, Apt 238
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Did you know that Rev. John Tharp has written a book?

Look for a display copy near the office and if you’d be interested in buying one, put your name on the list (they’re also available on Amazon or Walmart).



John R. Tharp was issued a challenge while preparing for a class reunion: Could he bicycle all the way to the event? The author's wife, however, decided to make it more interesting. "Why don't you just cross the whole country?" she asked. After all, she knew her husband was no stranger to adventure. Scuba diving, mountain climbing, skiing, and trips to Hawaii, Africa, the Middle East, numerous islands in the Caribbean, Panama, St. Luci, Australia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and the Bahamas have kept life exciting. Taken in tandem, the two challenges left the fifty-one-year-old pastor with only one choice: He decided to brave the wilds of the western deserts, thrill to the steep verticals of the Rockies, take in the sweeping vistas of the Great Plains, and make his way to the lush hills of the eastern seaboard. Along the way, he was deeply touched by the marvels of nature, interesting people, and amazing coincidences that ignited his faith and brought a deeper hue to the rich colors of the adventure.

Are you the person in charge of writing your committee or group’s Annual Report?

If so, please get those to Carolyn in the office by December 15th! If you need to wait for end of year numbers, please send to her ASAP after January 1st. If you’d like a copy of last year’s sent to you, she’s happy to do that. Thank you so much!



Celtic Yuletide Concert
with the Christmas Ceilidh Band!
Saturday, December 2, at 7-9 pm



Join us for a rollicking good time celebrating the holidays – Celtic style – at the United Church! Music from the highlands, the islands, and the faraway Celtic nations. Open to the public. A freewill offering will be accepted.



CHILDREN’S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

What’s happened...

During the month of November, our families were invited to take part in our **One Great Hour of Sharing** mission project. Each day, they read a sharing calendar, and put coins in a **fish bank** as directed. This is a great learning experience for families as through the calendar they learn about the needs of others around the world and see how they can help through sharing what God has given them. **Fish banks are coming in and we’ll soon see how God multiplies the gifts we bring to bless others.**

Youth Club kids filled **49 stockings** for Metro World Child on Wednesday, November 8th. These stockings were then mailed to **Metro World Child in Brooklyn**. The stockings are given to children in need at a special Christmas program for families. Everyone who attends this program hears the gospel message. *Thank you to the many people who helped with this project!* It was a **true team effort** of felt cutters, stocking sewers, stocking stuffer donations, and creativity of the Youth Club kids. Please pray that these stockings will be tangible evidence of Christ’s love to those who receive them.

What’s happening...

The **Christmas Angel Tree** is up in the gathering area and loaded with gift tags. This year we are returning to doing the Christmas Angel Tree through St. Benedict’s Parish (St. Mary’s) and Family Promise. The requests on the Angel Tree are all for local needs. Once you have picked a tag, please purchase the items, and return the *wrapped* gifts to church by **Sunday, December 3**. Please be sure to affix the Angel tree tag to your gift as this is required to help with sorting and distribution. Many thanks for sharing with others from what God has abundantly provided for you! Questions? Please see Deb Marshall.

If your child is interested in participating in our annual **Christmas Pageant**, please meet us for **ONE practice on Saturday, December 16th at 9am** in the sanctuary. We like to include children of all ages in this play. There are some speaking parts/narration (by older kids). All children will have costumes and be a part of acting out of biblical events that are part of the Christmas story. In other words, if you’re willing, we’ve got a place for you! The Pageant will take place **Sunday, December 17th during the Sunday school hour (at 10:00)** in the sanctuary. Please arrive between by 9:45 to get into costumes. The pageant will be followed by a birthday party for Jesus in the fellowship room.

The season of **Advent** is the 4 weeks prior to Christmas when we prepare our hearts for the coming Messiah. This year Advent begins on December 3rd. Children and youth will receive Advent devotionals in Sunday School on November 26th and December 3rd.

- For preschool through Kindergarten: **“Heaven and Nature Sing!”** is a Christmas tree centerpiece with stickers for each day of Advent. Each day, kids read a poem about a different part of the Christmas story, and place a sticker on their display.
- For 1st grade through 5th grade: **“Open Before Christmas.”** These daily devotionals include scripture, a devotion, and a prayer. The booklet comes with a colorful paper chain for kids to make.
- For Middle School and High School: **“It’s About Time.”** These daily devotionals for students include scripture and a teen-oriented reflection.

This Advent, our hope is that families set aside a special time each day to come together as a family to share in the anticipation of Jesus’ birth. **“O Come, Let Us Adore Him!”**