

**THE UNITED CHURCH
PRESBYTERIAN – AMERICAN BAPTIST
March 5, 2023**

PRELUDER: “*Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen*” by George Blake

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

OUR PREPARATION

FOCUS FOR TODAY: New Birth. Transformation through the story of Nicodemus

INTROIT: “Open Our Eyes”

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: We come this day hoping to encounter Christ.

People: We come with burdens and questions that only He can answer.

Leader: May we open our hearts to Him.

All: May our lives be healed and strengthened for service. AMEN.

*HYMN: #497 “Wonderful Grace of Jesus”

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***OPENING PRAYER:** Gracious Lord, we come, as did Nicodemus, with questions on our hearts and in our lives. We come hoping someone can help us find answers and healing. Grant us healing and openness to your spirit that we may be better servants of your Word, your Will, and your Way. We pray this in Jesus name, who taught us to pray... (singing)

*HYMN #632: “THE LORD’S PRAYER”

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*GLORIA PATRI: #807

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH THE WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 121 (page 612) {A.B. page 686}

ANTHEM: (11:00) “Ask Me Why” (words on center of insert)

The United Church Choir

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: Mark Slomski

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 (page 1115) {A.B. page 1243}

Sermon
“Nicodemus”
Pastor Wade Allen

OUR RESPONSE IN FAITH

*HYMN: #89 “Our Great Savior” (vs 1,2,5)

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PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY: “*Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her*” by Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau

*DOXOLOGY: #809

COMMUNION

*HYMN: #482 “My Hope is in the Lord”

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BAPTISM: Grace Diane Berube

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: “*Offertoire pour le Jour de Pâques*” by Alexandre Pierre Francois Boëly

Our prayers and sympathy are with Sue Vadney and Sandi DiCicco, whose father, Bill Adams, passed away on February 24th. Bill was our longest member of the United Church, having joined 80 years ago! Please keep the whole family in your prayers during this difficult time. His memorial service will take place later this spring.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Health concerns: Cindy Davies, Joe Laursen (Tim's nephew), Karl (Rob Stackhouse's relative), Mary Jane Laird, Deb Dawson (Steve Smythe's niece), Karen Roaix, David Sanford, Kathy Mills, Clancy Cragle (Michelle's grandfather), the Herin Family (relatives of Kathie Meredith), Patti Cagwin, David Crowe, Jack Schermond, Matthew Gullace

Cancer: Justin Ecklund (friend of James and Sarah Henderson), Roderick Simonds (father of Natalie Clark), Rob Stults (cousin of Wade and Christy Allen), Laurie Rudy, Mike Davis (friend of Guy Green), Tom Wager (friend of Mark Slomski), Dawn Miller, Mary J. Havens (Mary Lou's step-daughter), David Pagoda (friend of Eveleigh family), Keith Laursen (Tim's brother), Jim Davis (Scott's father), Jackie Crego (Stan and Evey Wright's daughter), Stephen Carges (brother of Paula Traber), Jon Santmyer (friend of Malecs), Darryl Kramer (friend of DiCiccos)

Recovering: Randy Secrest (Helen's son), Jan Gullace, Sue Paul (friend of Zajacs), Jay Peck (son of Jim & Ann)

MILITARY SERVICE: Steven Munk (MacKenzie Brown's cousin) deployed to Somalia, LTJG Nick Castiller (USN) stationed in Everett, Washington, MAC Adam Thorman (USN) deployed overseas, E6 Cody Wells (USN) returned from deployment, Technical Sergeant Timothy Peck (USAF) home from deployment

MISSIONARIES: Carlos Bonilla and Mayra Giovantti – the BGs (Central/South America), Tim and Patti Long (Baja Mexico), Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather (S Sudan refugees in Uganda), Ryan and Alethia White (Berlin)

* indicates an invitation to stand for those who are able and comfortable doing so.

Highlights for This Week! (look inside for details)

- A NEW Young Adult Sunday School class starts today!
- UC Moms will meet on Monday March 6 at 9:30am and is open to moms of all ages. Childcare is provided for those who need it.
- Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference is March 18th. Sign up on the bulletin board today or call Paul Johnson 585-794-2746
- Interested in joining the United Church? Come to the Exploring Membership class next Sunday, March 12 at noon.



Don't forget to "Spring Forward" NEXT weekend for Daylight Savings Time! Otherwise you'll be an hour late and miss church (oh no!)

Are you interested in joining the United Church?

An Exploring Membership class is scheduled for **next Sunday, March 12, at noon**. The purpose of the class is to help you learn more about The United Church and encourage you to consider membership.

During the class, you'll learn about the church's history and how the church is connected to two denominations. You might be wondering what this means and how this works? We will talk about how the church is organized/governed and what it means to become a member. We will discuss the various boards and committees in the congregation. You will learn more about the staff and worship services.

There will be plenty of time for you to ask questions about the church or Pastor Wade Allen personally. We'd love to have you join us, and please understand there's no commitment to join just by attending the class. We'd love to get to know you better and spend this time with you. If you can attend the class register at this link or contact the church office and we'll get you registered. A light lunch will be served.



The Stewards Assistance Fund: This Fund assists those in our congregation who are facing temporary financial challenges. If you are struggling, please call the Office at (585) 394-0503 to speak with Virginia Holroyd, or email her at virginia.holroyd@uccdga.org



We welcome your help to serve as **Greeters for the Sunday Services**. Greeters welcome people as they enter the church building and they hand out Bulletins at the Sanctuary entrances. Greeters also pass the Offering Plates during the Offertory. Reminders are emailed with instructions and location assignments.

The Greeter ministry is a wonderful way to show that we are a hospitable church and that we welcome all who want to worship the Lord with our congregation. **The March sign up sheet is on the Office door.** If you have any questions, please ask any Steward or call the Office. Thanks so much for serving in this way on any Sunday that you're available.

The **Easter Lily** order form was included in the March Lamplighter and extra forms are in the Welcome Center and today's bulletin. **ORDERS are DUE by: Sun., March 26th COST: \$12/plant.**

Make checks payable to: The United Church Board of Stewards, and write "Lily" in the memo section. Please put your form and payment in the Offering Plate or in the Office.

You may order your plant in memory of loved ones or in honor of special people in your lives. The lilies will adorn our Sanctuary for Easter Sunday and you may take your plant(s) home right after the Easter Services. *Thanks so much for your orders!*

ARE YOU VISITING US TODAY? If so, WELCOME to the United Church, we are so glad that you have chosen to worship with us. We invite you to check out our Welcome Table found in our Welcome Center, and to pick up a blue bag for yourself/your family to take home and to learn a little bit more about us. Please fill out a visitor card and drop it in the collection plate or mail in. **We are so happy that you joined us today and look forward to seeing you again soon!**

Nursery care is available during both Sunday services and the Sunday school hour. Families with little ones (babies through preschoolers) are welcome to use the nursery as desired. Room 10 is used during the 8:45am service and Room 11 is used during Sunday school and the 11am service. If your child is not potty trained, please **take a pager** in case your child needs a diaper change. Thank you! Any questions? Please see Jason and Melissa Long or Deb Marshall.

Children's Time ~ There is no Children's Time today. Worship Bags are available for children at the two front entrances. These bags contain various items to engage children throughout the worship service. Parents, please see the green sheet for instructions. Please return the bag and reusable contents when you're done. The children can take their papers home with them. We hope you enjoy worshiping together as a family!

ADULT EDUCATION

BOOK OF PSALMS

From **9:45-10:45am**, in the **Downstairs Dining Hall** – Join us for a new series on the Book of Psalms! This is an 8-week series that will walk us through major themes of these Scriptures!



PARENTING CLASS

From **9:45-10:45am**, in the **Fellowship Room** - This week, we will be discussing the importance of recognizing and valuing our kids' God-given gifts.



IRON SHARPENS IRON - MEN'S CONFERENCE

Men and young men, age 13 to 93: **Why go?** Because you'll hear speakers on topics that men deal with every day. You'll sing and pray. And you'll never forget the conversations in the car before and after. **When/Where?** Meet at church on March 18; we leave at 6:15am. We'll be back at the church before 6:00pm. **Registration:** Cost if you sign up by Tuesday, March 7, is \$55 per man; after March 7, cost is \$61. Optional boxed lunch is \$9, or bring your own! **Sign up** on the Adult Ed Bulletin Board or call or text Paul Johnson at 585-794-2746.



P.S. **Best part** of this men's conference is the smaller, one-hour seminar sessions. That day, you'll choose to attend any two of the 16 topics described at this link --> bit.ly/iron2023

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

WEEKLY CONNECT

Saturdays, from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM, at **the church**, join us for food, fellowship, and Bible Study! We are currently studying the book of Job.



MEAL DONATIONS ~ Would you like to support our hungry young adults? Volunteer to provide a meal on the signup sheet in the hallway!

YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS - *NEW*

Based on feedback from young adults, we are starting a **Young Adult Sunday School Class!** Starting **TODAY** in the **Bell Tower Room** (adjacent to the sanctuary balcony). Come and enjoy some coffee, fellowship, and study! Class content to be determined.



LOCAL Service Opportunity!

We are gathering a team of youth and adults to help at LeTourneau Christian Center. LeTourneau needs some people who can help with deep cleaning and kitchen prep. They also need some who can help with specific projects that require skills, such as mudding/sanding walls, painting, laying flooring, and even roofing. Please let Deb Marshall know if you have interest in being on this team.

YOUTH MINISTRY

M&M FUNDRAISER – Reminder!

Our annual M&M fundraiser is off to a great start! Please return your containers this week. **Donations go toward supporting our workcampers on their trip to Woonsocket, Rhode Island in July, 2023.**



CONCERT ~ Is your student interested in joining our group to see **For King & Country** on **April 20**? If so, sign up outside the youth office!

YOUTH CLUB

Our Wednesday afterschool ministry

For children in grades 2 – 8

After school – 6:30 October through April

Bible Study~Worship~Recreation~Family Time

Thank you to parents who are signed up to help out with snack and kitchen clean-up! We couldn't do it without your help!

Parent Duties:

Kitchen Clean Up – Wednesdays, 6pm til done

March 8 – Beyrle, James, Hildebrandt

March 15 – Ice Skating Night - PARENTS:early pick up at GCCC at 5:30pm

Snack for 50 hungry children – at the church by 2pm Wednesdays

March 8 – Buono

March 15 –

Family Time Themes:

March 8 – Science Night!

March 15 – Ice Skating Night - PARENTS:early pick up at GCCC at 5:30pm

Youth Club is going Ice Skating!

Wednesday, March 15th – Students will ride/walk to Youth Club as usual. After snack, we will carpool to the Greater Canandaigua Civic Center (GCCC). We will enjoy ice skating and a pizza dinner there. Cost is \$5 per person. Please send kids with a helmet for safety; they will not be allowed to skate without one. **Parents, don't forget, early pick up at 5:30pm at GCCC.** Questions? Please see Deb Marshall



Wednesday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast invites you!

Men of all ages are invited to join us at 7:00 am Wednesday morning in the Fellowship Room for a hot breakfast, prayer and Bible study.



Baking for Youth Club! ~ Calling all bakers! We serve dessert to our Youth Club kids and volunteers each week. Sometimes we like to enjoy homemade desserts. If you see something you'd be able to bake, please let Deb Marshall know. Desserts need to be delivered to church by Wednesday at 4:00pm. Often more than one baker helps to make the quantity needed.

For March 29th – 6 dozen Easter cut out cookies (cross shaped cookie cutters available to borrow)

Items we need to borrow for the Youth Club Musical Big Fish!

- 1 black hat (like an “old fashioned” reporter would wear)
- 2 sailor hats
- 1 metal sand pail



If you are able to loan any of these items to us, please mark them with your name and leave them in Deb's office by March 15. Thank you!

VBS registration is open! Blast off with us at Stellar VBS this summer!! Join us on a cosmic adventure where kids will learn how to shine Jesus' light everywhere they go! Register by using the QR code below or the link sent to parents via email.



Our VBS will be held **July 10-14, 9am-12noon**; kids ages 4-years-old through those entering 6th grade can attend....kids entering 7th grade and up can be volunteer helpers. Registration is open and spaces are limited. Questions? Contact Deb Marshall at deb_marshall@uccdga.org

UC Moms!

UC Moms is a group of mothers with kids of all ages that meet together to pray, fellowship, study God's word, and encourage and support one another. Our next meeting will be in the fellowship room on Monday, March 6, from 9:30-11. **Childcare is provided;** however, this group is for ALL moms. Our group includes moms of college kids, moms of babies, and moms of “in-between” kids! We look forward to seeing you! You may join us as your schedule allows. Feel free to bring a friend! Questions? Please see Deb Marshall.



Join us for church family Bowling Night!!

Friday, March 31, 6-8pm at Roseland Bowl in Canandaigua. Fun for ALL ages, no experience required! We invite you to join us for a fun-filled evening of bowling, pizza, soda, cake, and fellowship!!



\$10pp covers bowling, shoes, and refreshments. Discounts and scholarships available. Contact Deb for more information. Mark your calendar and sign up online:

Our church will host an **American Red Cross blood drive on Friday, March 24 from 1:00 to 6:00 pm.** Please consider donating, realizing how a short amount of your time can be so helpful to the lives of others. Appointments can be made online.



"Dear brothers and sisters, friends and partners!
Dear global family!

On the anniversary of the great war in Ukraine, we thank God with special prayers for each of you and your support. You were by our side in our difficulties and remained active participants in our work and spiritual warfare. We thank you on behalf of our churches and ministers for continuing to serve the churches and people of Ukraine.

What does this year mean for us?

On one hand - suffering, fear, loss, death, uncertainty, ruin, separated families; loss of territories, loss of people, and economic losses. Hundreds of churches have ceased to exist, and tens of thousands of Christians are scattered throughout Ukraine and all over the world; destroyed and damaged houses of prayer, seminaries, and premises where great spiritual work took place among children and adults.

On the other hand - the daily presence of God, new baptisms, new churches, and tens of thousands of new people who visit churches every Sunday.

Ukraine exists! Ukraine prays, works, and fights with great hope and confidence! The incredible scale of humanitarian aid! Millions of Christians around the world stand by us. Our European neighbors found and continue to find an incredible example of serving Ukrainian refugees with great love and sacrifice.

Thank you all!

We pray that the war will end in 2023! The hearts and bodies of thousands of our people have been crippled. We are preparing for the hard work of rebuilding Ukraine. The scale of destruction is incredibly large. But we hope that in 10 years we will manage to rebuild our country.

We have lived this year in complete daily dependence on God and today we praise Him for the grace and power that works in us. On behalf of our churches and ministers, we thank you for walking this path with us!

Stay with us! You have shared and still, share our cry, and we want you to share with us the joy of victory, just peace, and restoration!

God will certainly reveal His glory and we will see the light in His light! His love will heal all wounds! His peace will bring calmness and prosperity to Ukraine.

Let us glorify Him with our dedication, our unity, and our courage to dream and believe in revival and restoration in the near future!

God bless you!

Valery Antoniuk, President of The Baptist Union of Ukraine

Igor Bandura, Senior Vice-President of The Baptist Union of Ukraine"



During the month of March you will find lists of items needed to fill **School Kits for Church World Service**, along with a box to leave your donated items, in the Gathering Area. It is important to remember that only those items listed can be used. Thank you for helping children who want to learn.



Diapers needed for Care Net

During the month of March, we will be collecting **diapers, sizes 4, 5, and 6** for Care Net. You may leave your diaper donations in the collection bin in the Welcome Center. Thank you for supporting babies and moms in need!



The shopping cart for collecting **food donations** will be in the Gathering Area every Sunday due to increased needs in the community. We will alternate taking the donations to the CCIA and Salvation Army food pantries. Thank you for your generosity!

CCIA has specifically requested: diced tomatoes, pork & beans, canned fruit, canned meat meals (like stew or beefaroni) and pasta.

Sunday happenings...

TODAY –

Service at 8:45am

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45am

Communicants Class at 9:45 am

Service at 11:00am

The Cause, 5-7:30pm

Sunday, March 12, 2023 –

Service at 8:45am

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45am

Communicants Class at 9:45 am

Service at 11:00am

Exploring Membership Class at noon

The Cause, 5-7:30pm

Sunday, March 19, 2023 –

Service at 8:45am

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45am

Communicants Class at 9:45 am

Service at 11:00am

EROI Organ concert at 3pm

The Cause, 5-7:30pm

Ask Me Why (choir)

She slipped through the door, sat on the last pew,
A heart full of questions and a world torn in two.
Bearing the weight of years of regret,
She listened to the preacher when he stood up and said,
“If you’re somewhere between doubt and believin’
Friend, I have answers for all that you’re needin’”.

Chorus

Ask me who, and I’ll tell you it’s Jesus.

Ask me how, and I’ll say it’s the blood.

Ask me where, and I’ll take you to Calvary.

Ask me why, and I’ll tell you it’s love.

It’s been years since she found amazing grace.

It’s been a long journey, but each battle she’s faced

Has proven God faithful, time and again,

And a chance to tell others who are right where she’s been,

“Somewhere between doubt and believin’

God has the answers for all that you’re needin’.” (Chorus)

It’s Love that held Him to the cross.

It’s Love that came to save the lost. (Chorus)



Scrap, Craft & Quilt at LeTourneau! March 23-26, 2023

Join us for this inaugural spring retreat! Work on your crafting hobbies, as well as enjoying fellowship, delicious meals and comfortable lodging. For more details, itinerary, and registration, see the poster in the hallway or check the LeTourneau website. Sarah Gross is also happy to answer questions!

For adults that still love puzzles ... (Solution from last week was JOSHUA)

Can you solve the puzzle this week? It is pretty tricky! Read all of the instructions!

1. Join horizontally, vertically, and diagonally adjacent pairs of numbers that appear next to each other in the circle.

Work out the missing numbers using the fact that only the letters shown below can be hidden in the puzzle, and each is three numbers wide and tall.

2. Arrange the revealed letters to spell a name from the Bible.

Each letter can be the right way up, upside down, or on its side.

All possible letter shapes are shown below. Some are the same when rotated!

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

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2	9	8	9	0	3	0	5	8	7
7	6	4	6	2	1	2	8	2	4
0	4	0	5	6	7	1	4	8	2
1	8	2	3	9	0	4	8	2	8
0	6	1	4	8	7	8	2	6	5
1	5	3	6	2	5	2	5	3	2
3	9	2	4	5	4	9	6	9	7
4	3	7	8	2	0	2	3	8	2
2	7	2	4	1	7	4	6	9	4
7	9	4	8	2	0	2	7	2	7

For more visit www.begriddled.com

Easter Lily Order Form 2023



PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____

I would like to order _____ Lilies at **\$12.00** each.

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

1. Honor / Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

2. Honor / Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

3. Honor / Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

4. Honor / Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Place this in the offering plate WITH your check made payable to

“THE UNITED CHURCH BOARD OF STEWARDS”. List in the memo section: “EASTER LILY”. You may also mail it
or bring to the church office.

ORDERS MUST BE IN NO LATER THAN Sun. March 26.

Please pick up your lily after church on Easter Sunday. Thank you!