



APRIL 2025

THE Lamplighter

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APRIL 2025 EVENTS

April 1

Stewards, 6:30 pm

April 7

Trustees, 7:00 pm

April 9

Youth Club Journey to Easter

April 12

Game Night, 6:30 pm

April 17

Maundy Thursday service, 7:00 pm

April 20

Easter Sunday, 8:45 and 11:00 am

April 21

Official Board, 7:00 pm



IT IS ALMOST TIME!

Think of all that has happened since the spring of 2021!

Wade and Christy had just arrived to our church. We were still struggling to make our way out of the Covid pandemic. Thirty of our church friends hadn't even been *born* yet! We've also welcomed so many new families to our congregation that it's time to **update our pictorial directory!** Keep a close eye on upcoming bulletins and Lamplighters for volunteer opportunities and the dates that photos will be taken! We're hoping for late May or early-mid June.

FROM THE PASTOR



As we journey toward Easter morning, there's a growing sense of anticipation. We move from the shadow of the cross into the brilliant light of the empty tomb. This Easter begins a worship series that will take us all the way to Pentecost, focusing on the Psalms. These ancient songs have shaped the worship of God's people for thousands of years. In fact, the Psalms have served as both prayer book and hymnal for countless generations before us.

Did you know the Psalms were the very songs Jesus himself sang in worship and the prayers he turned to in his darkest hours? There's something significant about that connection. The Psalms appear in the New Testament more than any other Old Testament book. When the apostles tried to make sense of Christ's death and resurrection, they kept returning to the Psalms to express what these world-changing events meant.

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FROM THE PASTOR

Ancient Songs, Easter Hope

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On Resurrection Sunday, we'll explore Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, which declares: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." Early Christians heard in these words a perfect description of Jesus's resurrection. This thanksgiving psalm becomes an Easter proclamation, celebrating God's victory over death. As we continue through the Easter season, we'll experience the full range of human emotion in the Psalms--

from lament to praise. In these ancient words, we discover our own emotions, our questions, sorrows, hopes, and celebrations.

I encourage you to read the designated passages before each Sunday. Let these words settle into your heart during the week as you prepare to gather on Sunday morning. Our path to Resurrection Sunday leads us through Mary's costly devotion and Jesus's

surrendered will in Gethsemane before experiencing the glory of Resurrection. From there, we learn to live as people whose every breath becomes praise. May this journey through the Psalms draw us closer to the God who still speaks through these ancient words. ▲



"This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

- Luke 9:35

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 06 - The Cost of Devotion: Lessons from Mary's Perfume (John 12:1-8)
Additional Readings: Psalm 126, Isaiah 43:16-21

April 13 - Not My Will: Jesus in Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-46)
Additional Readings: Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16, Job 14:1-14

April 20 - The Stone the Builders Rejected (Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24)
Additional Readings: Luke 24:1-12, 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

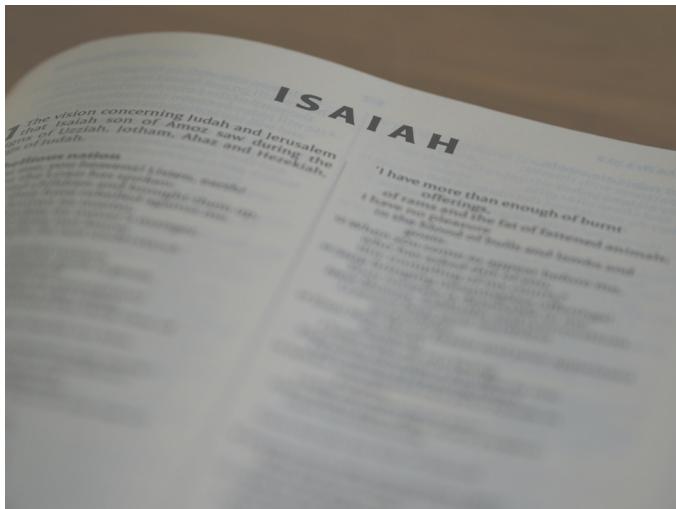
April 27 - Everything That Has Breath: Living as People of Praise (Psalm 150)
Additional Readings: John 20:19-31, Revelation 1:4-8



Stewarding Gifts with Spirit-Led Discernment

How does the Spirit move among us when resources are placed in our hands? I'd like to share with you the journey our discernment team has undertaken in response to the Boyce family's generous gift. This process wasn't simply administrative--it was deeply spiritual, rooted in the biblical practice of discernment we see modeled in Acts 15, where the early church gathered to seek God's will together. Throughout this process, faithful servants of our congregation have devoted themselves to prayer, listening, and thoughtful discernment. They have wrestled with questions of stewardship that echo the parable teachings of Jesus:

"To whom much is given, much will be required"
(Luke 12:48).



What emerges from this prayerful process is a three-fold vision for stewarding these resources: **Building and Infrastructure** (\$250,000)--creating spaces that facilitate ministry and welcome, honoring the Boyce family's heart for our church building; **Mission and Spiritual**

Development (\$100,000)--fostering growth through relationship-based ministry, echoing Christ's call to "go and make disciples" (Matthew 28:19-20); and **Ministry Support Reserves** (\$150,000)--establishing financial stability for ongoing programs, reflecting Solomon's call to prudent planning (Proverbs 21:5). In each allocation, we see not just financial distribution, but a theological statement about our values as a congregation. The emphasis on relationship-based ministry reminds us that we are called not simply to charity but to transformative engagement with our community.

What might the Holy Spirit yet reveal as we move forward with this stewardship plan? The beauty of this framework is that it creates structure while remaining open to the Spirit's ongoing direction. As the prophet Isaiah reminds us: "Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it'" (Isaiah 30:21). The discernment team has listened intently for that voice, creating a path that honors both wise stewardship and spiritual leading.

I invite you to receive this proposal not as a final destination but as the next faithful step in our congregation's journey. Some may have envisioned different allocations--that's natural in a diverse body of believers. Yet what unites us is our shared commitment to seeking God's will. As you reflect on this proposal, I encourage you to thank God for the Boyce family's generosity and for continued clarity as we implement these plans. The true measure of our stewardship will be not just in the allocation of funds, but in how these resources transform our ministry and extend Christ's love in tangible ways. May we continue to walk together in faithful stewardship, attentive to the Spirit's guidance and committed to the ministry Christ has entrusted to us. 

STAY INFORMED

Sign Up for Urgent Church Text Alerts

We want to ensure that our church family stays informed when it matters most. If you're comfortable, we invite you to complete a **Consent-to-Text Form**, allowing us to send you urgent messages through **Planning Center**.

These texts will be used **only for important updates**, such as last-minute service changes, weather-related cancellations, or urgent church-wide notifications. You won't receive replies from others, and you **won't be able to reply**—just quick, essential updates when needed.

Thank you for helping us keep our church family connected! If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Signing up is quick and easy! Simply fill out the form online at <https://bit.ly/ucc-consent>
OR scan the code to the right.



Introducing the Visitation Team: A Ministry of Encouragement and Prayer

Do you have a heart for prayer and encouragement? Do you believe that a simple visit, phone call, or FaceTime chat can make a difference in someone's life? If so, we invite you to be part of our new **Visitation Team**—a ministry dedicated to providing spiritual companionship and prayer for those who need it most.

This team is designed for those who feel called to connect with others in moments when encouragement, support, and prayer can bring comfort and strength. Unlike our Care Ministers, who focus on ongoing support for those facing major life challenges, the Visitation Team will step in for **short-term encouragement and connection**.

How It Works

Each team member will fill out a short form indicating:

- Whether you are open to phone calls, in-person visits, or FaceTime (or all three!)
- How much notice you need—whether you're open to last-minute requests or prefer advance scheduling
- The best way to contact you

When a need arises, you'll be contacted based on your preferences, ensuring that each visit, call, or check-in is a good fit for both the volunteer and the recipient.

Who Needs Visitation?

We know that every situation is unique, and not everyone in need of support requires the same kind of visit. Here are some **examples of situations** where a Visitation Team member can make an impact with their church family:

Someone who may be:

- **Struggling with loneliness** after a recent move or other life change. They don't require ongoing care but would deeply appreciate a friendly phone call or FaceTime chat.
- **New to our church** and hasn't made many connections yet. A personal visit or call could help them feel seen, welcomed, and valued.
- **Facing a stressful life transition**, such as a job loss, retirement, or becoming an empty nester. They may not need physical assistance but could benefit from an encouraging conversation and prayer.
- **A college student or young adult who moved away** and is feeling disconnected from their church family. A check-in or message of encouragement from a familiar voice can help them stay connected.
- **A parent with a newborn or young children** who feels overwhelmed and would appreciate a supportive prayer or conversation but may not be in need of formal assistance.
- **In the hospital** having tests ran and needs a prayer for peace and trust in God's provision.

These visits and calls aren't necessarily about providing long-term care but rather offering encouragement, connection, and prayer in moments where a simple act of kindness can make a difference.

Join the Visitation Team!

Ready to serve in this meaningful way? **Reach out to Christy.**

Let's be the hands and feet of Christ, bringing comfort and connection to those who need it most.

Senior Companion Birthday

Senior Companion, **Betty Aquardo Owens**, is celebrating her 94th birthday this month! She was an active member of our congregation for many years. Currently she lives near Chattanooga, TN near her roots and one of her daughters. In 1940, at age 9, she was Miss Chattanooga at the celebration of the completion of the Chickamauga Dam. At that celebration she met FDR in person. Betty has always been a creative leader and organizer. I really enjoy her visits to Canandaigua where she comes yearly to see her daughter and family, Paul and Beth. May she have many more years of serving God as she lives independently.

Written by Rachel Rensberger, her steward.



YOUR HANDS, HIS WORK

Have you ever prayed for God to show you a way to serve? A way to make a real difference in someone's life? What if the answer is as simple as changing a lightbulb, raking leaves, or picking up groceries?

The needs within our church family are many. Some members struggle with everyday tasks--small things that become overwhelming when health, age, or life circumstances make them difficult to manage. That's where the **Support Team** comes in.

We are looking for hearts willing to serve and hands ready to help. No long-term commitment. No set schedule. Just a willingness to step in when you can--whether it's running an errand, tackling a seasonal chore, doing light housework, or assisting with a small repair.

Think of it as **answering a prayer with your presence**. Someone in our church family is hoping for a little help today. Could you be the answer?

Join the Support Team and say "yes" to serving when you're able. Your time, no matter how small, makes a big difference.

Interested? Contact Christy to learn more.

Easter Communion at Ferris Hills

*April 17th at 1:00 pm
in Rayburn Hall*

HELPING HANDS SUPPORT TEAM



FAMILY MINISTRY



to expect when they can begin attending in the fall of 2025. Also on April 23rd, our middle school kids get one last “dinner out” at Tom Wahl’s. And our **last Youth Club, on April 30th**, will include our annual carnival and a special dinner that includes all Youth Club volunteers and the Youth Club kids with their families! We look forward to lots of fun and continued deepening of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Youth Club Update and Service Project:

Our **Youth Club** numbers have grown. We invited friends to Youth Club in February and now we have **64 children** enrolled in Youth Club. What a joy to share the love of Jesus with so many children each week! On **March 5**, the Youth Club children filled **45 Birthday Bags**. These bags are given to families in need who use our **local food pantries** and have someone celebrating a birthday. Thank you to all who donated to this service project!

April is the last month of Youth Club, and we have some special plans! We will have **1st graders visit Youth Club on April 23rd** so that they know what

Summer Faith Growing Opportunities:

On Sunday, **April 27**, we will have **Camp Day!** Representatives from a few camps will join us and share with kids about their camps (during the Sunday school hour). After the 11am service, these camp reps will be in the welcome center and available to answer questions. If you are curious about camp, please make sure to join us on this special Sunday! And, don’t forget about **camperships!!** Our church believes that the Christian camp experience is so important that **we will pay ½ the tuition for one week at any Christian day camp or overnight camp!** This is not a need based scholarship – this is for every family sending a child to Christian camp this summer! The only qualification is that your child currently participates in Sunday School, Youth Club, and/or The Cause.

Parents, please note: **Beaver Camp** gives us **discount codes for camperships**. BEFORE you register your child for Beaver Camp, please contact Deb for the discount code. For LeTourneau and other Christian camps, our process remains the same, once you’re signed up, send the registration confirmation to Deb, and we will take care of the campership. Please contact Deb Marshall with any questions.





True North VBS: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

Registration here:

<https://uccdga.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2772543>

July 14-18, 2025, 9am – 12noon

Kick-off: Sun., July 13, 2025 at 6:30pm

**Kids ages 4 years old through those who completed 5th grade,
are welcome to participate!**

REGISTER NOW!



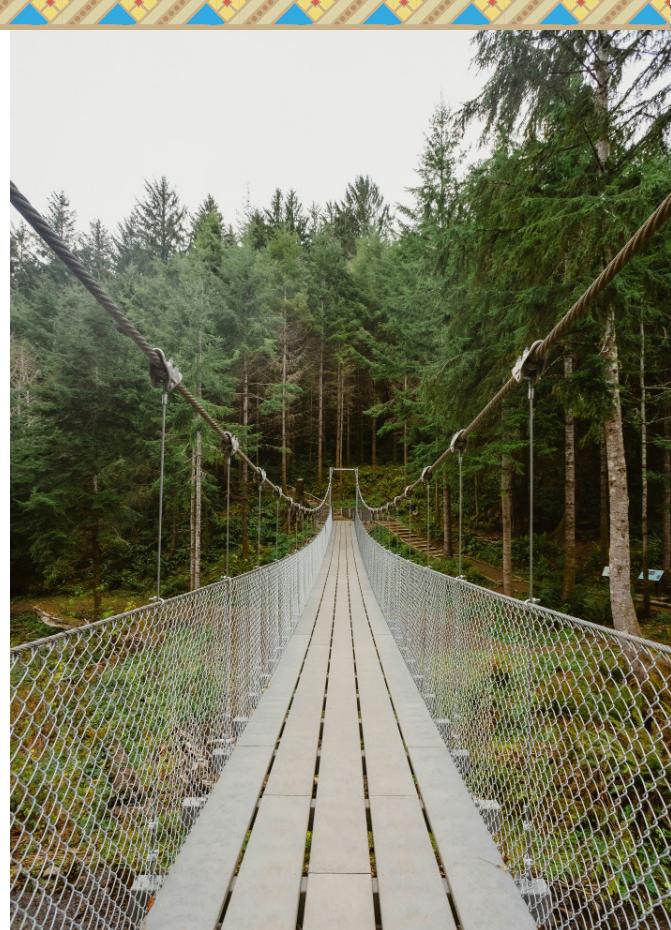
Volunteers needed:

**Tweens/teens who completed 6th – 12th grade
are encouraged to volunteer!**

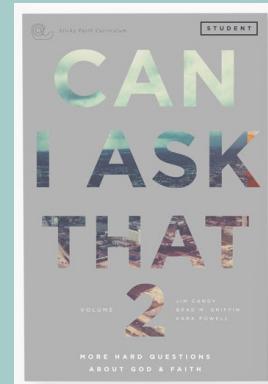
**Adults are needed as volunteers, too - in lots of different areas!
Contact Deb Marshall with any questions**

Personal Reflection - Quiet Time

As Christians, we often are looking for ways we can be more like Jesus. We might try to be more loving, or more patient. Or, maybe we are striving to be more peaceful or to be more self-controlled. While all of those are worthwhile endeavors, I believe striving to emulate His rhythm of spending time alone might be one of the most effective ways to become more like Him. Read more on our website at www.uccdga.org



YOUTH



North Carolina Missions Trip

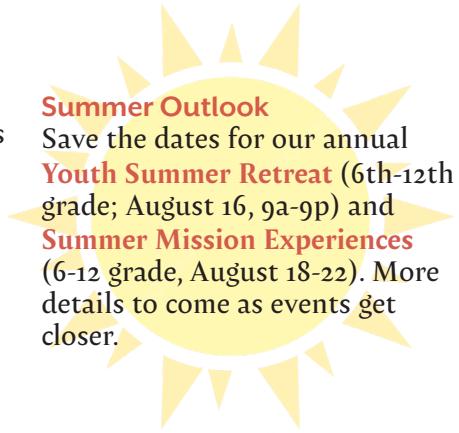
(April 13-18) - Our **youth** are included in an important mission trip to serve those in need down in North Carolina. Check out the Missions Page for details. **Please keep our group in your prayers!**

The Cause (High School Youth Group)-

We are wrapping up our curriculum titled **"Can I Ask That? Hard Questions about God and Faith"**. We've spent over 1.5 years using this content, and it has generated valuable conversation with our students. Moving forward, we are focusing on the Easter season and end-of-year discussions and activities (8th grade orientation, senior night, end-of-year reflections and celebrations, etc.).

Check the church calendar online for upcoming youth events!

“...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses... to the end of the earth.” - Acts 1:8



ADULT & YOUNG ADULT

North Carolina Missions Trip

(Apr 13-18) - **Several young adults and adults** are also attending this Disaster Relief mission trip (to accompany the youth as mentioned above in the Youth Ministry section).



Summer Outlook

Save the dates for our **Adult Summer Retreat** (August 16, 9:30a-11:30; shorter and with air conditioning... based on your feedback!) and the **Onanda Park Summer Service** (time TBD). More details to come as events get closer.



Check the church calendar online for upcoming events, including open small groups ministry team meetings, monthly connects, and special events.



I recently had the privilege of facilitating a Sunday morning worship service while Pastor Wade was out of town. This is a responsibility I am grateful to have; it is not a given that someone in my position is permitted to serve as pulpit supply. This responsibility caused me to reflect on corporate worship in general...

THE TOGETHERNESS OF WORSHIP: ORDINARY YET EXTRAORDINARY

Corporate worship holds both ordinary and extraordinary elements. **Those ordinary and extraordinary elements belong together.** The **Lord's Supper** provides a great example. The ordinary (bread and wine) is intertwined with the extraordinary (body and blood). Indeed, the ordinary and the extraordinary belong together; otherwise, the Lord's Supper ceases to be just that! A divorcing of the ordinary from the extraordinary errs the Lord's Supper either into a meal like any other, or into some sort of disembodied spiritual exercise that is detached from God's good creation.

In our Reformed tradition, we believe the physical elements are bread and wine/juice (ordinary), and that the spiritual presence of Christ is in the elements (extraordinary). To be clear, this is not *transubstantiation*, which is the view that the physical elements are *literally* the body and blood of Christ.

The *glue* that holds the Lord's Supper together is the words of Jesus: "*Do This in Remembrance of Me.*" This instruction intertwines the ordinary with the extraordinary; the bread with body and wine with blood. Yes, when God speaks, something new is created; in this case, it is Holy Communion - a sacred remembrance that brings together physical and spiritual realities in corporate worship.

This *togetherness* also applies to us as image-bearers. **We are both physical and spiritual beings.** It is heresy to separate them (look up Gnosticism when you get the chance). *They belong together.* Merely having a physical body dilutes our existence into atoms and molecules (an atheistic worldview). Only having a spiritual body errs in all sorts of ways, and is expressed in certain types of new age spirituality today, and other types of paganism in history (a related heresy was Docetism; a view that Jesus was only a spiritual being).

The togetherness of the sacred and the secular extends through the rest of corporate worship:

- › We are in the world (Canandaigua, NY, USA), but yet set apart (in The United Church sanctuary).
- › We meet weekly (one of seven days in the week), but on the Lord's Day (the day of Christ's resurrection).
- › We stand and sit, listen with our ears and speak with our voices (our physical bodies), but also worship God in praise and prayer, confession and contemplation (which is far more than a cognitive action, but also a spiritual activity).

Conclusion

Just as God spoke in the beginning and created the universe into existence, including humans (physical and spiritual God-images), so did God speak and created the Lord's Supper (bread/body and wine/blood). When God speaks, *all* of creation responds... the physical and the spiritual, together.

The *togetherness* of the ordinary and extraordinary soaks the entirety of our corporate worship liturgy. Next time you join us on Sunday morning, come prepared to worship with your whole self - your body and soul.

Inspired by

The concepts and contents of the following writers inspired my reflections: Bible scholar Christopher Watkin (Biblical Critical Theory) and Anglican priest Trish Harrison Warren (Liturgy of the Ordinary).

MISSIONS

Sunday, April 20
Our Special Easter Offering for the One Great Hour of Sharing

Around the world millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Both our American Baptist and Presbyterian USA denominations support the One Great Hour of Sharing as a way to serve individuals and communities in need.

Jesus calls us to love one another with the kind of love that is shared freely with all people. To provide relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed, we can join with others in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. One Great Hour currently supports projects in 100 countries.

You can use the enclosed envelope or simply make your check payable to the United Church, with OGHS in the memo. You can also give online by selecting the fund from the dropdown list. Please give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot! 

North Carolina Hurricane Relief Mission Trip, April 13-18

A house is rented and lists are started! The mission trip team is getting excited to share the United Church's love for others with the western North Carolina community as they continue to recover from Hurricane Helene. There are a few ways we are asking the congregation to help:

Become a prayer partner. We would like a prayer partner for each person going on the trip - we'll match you up. This entails praying specifically for the individual before and during the trip and providing three notes to them to be opened during the trip. Email Sonya Brooks (sonya.brooks99@yahoo.com) if you would like to participate. **Of course, we would like everyone to be praying for the group and the people we will be helping!**

Another way to help this effort is by providing gift cards for the Seabees Outreach group to use in their work. The stores, in order of priority, that have been requested are: 1-Home Depot, 2-Ingles(regional grocery store), 3-Target, 4-Walmart. Any gift cards can be given to the church office. Thank you for any assistance!

FAMILY PROMISE

FAMILY PROMISE helps families (adult(s) and at least one child) in times of homelessness as well as those who might be on the cusp of losing their housing. Here is a recap of their 2024 impact:

Emergency Shelter: 8 families, 18 children, 28 individuals
Eviction Prevention: 16 families, 29 children, 54 individuals
Homeless Diversion: 10 families, 16 children, 30 individuals
Stabilization: 4 families, 10 children, 15 individuals
Community Support: 113 families, 166 children, 311 individuals

In 2025 the main goal is to open their new static site here in Canandaigua. Construction/remodeling has begun with completion slated in October! Once the site is open there will be opportunities for our congregation to be involved in an ongoing capacity! We can't wait.

In the meantime, the United Church is supporting Family Promise and their clients with gift cards. Any donations of Walmart, Aldi or Tops cards in \$25 or \$50 increments would be greatly appreciated. Gas cards are also always needed. Please give any cards (marked Family Promise) to the church office or place in the offering plate by April 27. Thank you for your support of this local effort!



"How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony."

This verse from Psalm 133:1 was a presence wherever we were. We saw it on the poster announcing the upcoming "Culto Unido" (Worship United) at the Iglesia Bet-Hel in Tabi where we worshipped on Sunday morning. We heard it expressed by Pastor Carlos, President of Aguas Vivas in the Peninsula, in his meeting with us and the Bet-Hel session on Tuesday afternoon. And we sang it in the worship service at Iglesia Emmanuel in Bacalar on Tuesday night. Yes...indeed it is wonderful and pleasant when we can join together with brothers and sisters

grace and peace to the people of Iglesia Emmanuel and our desire to reconnect in relationship was received well by Pastor Leo. He and his wife expressed to us that never in their pastoral lives has this opportunity ever been presented.

Well, a "work project" was also central to this trip. The United Church now is partnered with two Living Waters for the World water purification plants. One in Cedralito at Misión Monte Horeb (installed in 2011) and one in Limones at Misión Sinai (installed in 2018). Our work project was to "upgrade" the system in Cedralito and much pre trip planning and fundraising had taken place. Regie learned a lot about



Pastor Leodogario and the congregation of Iglesia Emmanuel in Bacalar graciously welcomed and honored us and shared a hope for a continuing relationship.

of faith in fellowship, in worship, in work projects, in prayer, in support, and in friendships remembered. This trip served many purposes but central to it all was time spent at Iglesia Emmanuel in Bacalar. Our hopes of rekindling a relationship with the church were graciously fulfilled! Pastor Leodegario Hernandez de la Cruz ("Pastor Leo"), his wife Angela, and several who remembered past visits from Shirley, Cathy and others welcomed us with such warm hospitality and recognition and shared the mutual hope that we may continue a relationship between our two churches. Ken, Ray and I are bringing that desire back to the United Church to pray over and discern where this may lead. Pastor Mark's letter extending

REFLECTIONS ON THIS YEAR'S MEXICO MISSION TRIP...

wire transfers to Mexico and our LWW Yucatan Network Coordinator, Eigner Juarez, helped us organize and coordinate the details for this project with many phone calls to our in-country operating partners. In addition to our United Church team of Ken Allen, Ray McMillen, Marion Nicastro, Linda Werts and Yucatan Coordinator Eigner Juarez we were blessed to have two in-country Pastors, their wives and Avimael Escobar from Limones lead us in the work project. Our team all did a bit of painting... turning the building into a beautiful "Presbyterian blue." Eigner and Marion helped the in-country workers with installing the new parts to the system. Ken was a great overseer of the tools, provided name tags, certificates and the beautiful poem by Shirley Kem, which was presented to the women of Emmanuel. Ray was "hands on" with everything and organized the general clean up around the building. As trip leader I led several of the meetings with each of our in-country operating partners. But mostly I was the holder of the credit card which purchased innumerable



The women's group of Iglesia Emmanuel joyfully receive a framed copy (prepared by Ken Allen) of Shirley Kem's poem written to "Bacalar."

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MISSIONS

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supplies and equipment that morphed the project from an “upgrade,” said to cost around \$5,000, into a total “rehab” which now will run to more like \$10,000! We will prayerfully consider how to fund these unexpected costs but we will leave knowing know that this system in the rural community of Cedralito will now be able to serve this area for years to come with safe, clean water at an affordable price.

As I write and submit this reflection we have a few more days. We will finish, celebrate and dedicate the rehabbed system in Cedralito on Friday, worship with our partners in Limones on Friday evening, spend a day of tourism on Saturday at the newly opened Ichkabal Mayan ruin just outside of Bacalar, and perhaps take a dip in the Caribbean waters on our return to Cancún on Sunday. But in all we will return with many emotions of gratitude and blessings that we are a part of God’s story working together in harmony with our brothers and sisters here in Mexico.

Submitted by Linda Werts



United Church Mission Team, LWW operating partners, and Pastors from Aguas Vivas of the Peninsula celebrate the completion of work project to “rehab” the water plant in Cedralito.

MEET FRANCESCA BARBOSA



Living Waters is the group our church works with in Mexico. Limones is one of the locations our church has helped install, maintain a water plant and develop relationships with. Francesca Barbosa is a worker at the Limones, Mexico water plant. She was interviewed for Living Waters and here is an excerpt of the article:

A filler, sealer, odd-jobber and treasurer. Francesca is a Jill-of-all-trades at the Limones system. She monitors supplies and generally administers the waterworks. But person-of-faith best describes her.

“Living Waters is a blessing. It is a ministry, especially when we give water to the school, the sports teams practicing in the schoolyard, to the sick and to grieving families.” This for us, says Francesca, is a form of evangelism. “We represent Jesus Christ and his love to all of them.” The water ministry gives 10% of its income to the church as a tithe to support the more explicitly “spiritual” ministry of the people of God but actually the work of the water team is every bit as “spiritual.” Francesca says the water team tells the church people, “If you know of anyone who needs water, tell us and we will give it to them.” During COVID it was not simply the community but the system itself that was blessed because it was given the opportunity to give more water out, with one of the younger system workers saying that his work during the pandemic was an incredible blessing to him and his family.

We give tours of the system building to the school kids, says Francesca, so they see first-hand how water is made drinkable, how a water purification system works, and we explain to them the importance of drinking and maintaining clean water.”

We go out of the way, she says, to explain to the kids that people from the United States helped to make it possible for the Limones community to drink clean water. “We point out that they are our partners. And our brothers and sisters as fellow human beings. We believe it’s important that the people of Limones understand that other people from other countries care about us as we care about them and pray for them.”

A filler, sealer, odd-jobber, administrator and treasurer. But Francesca Barbosa is above all a person-of-faith working in a system that sees itself as part of world-wide family having faith in Jesus, the Living Water.

MISSIONS

A “hands on” mission team is forming!

Yes, it's true you *could* go on a mission trip to Mexico or North Carolina. But there are also wonderful opportunities right here in Canandaigua. Want to explore how God may be calling you? Join us on Thursday, April 10th at 7:00 pm to learn more.



Food Pantry Collections

Thank you, church, for your ongoing grocery donations for local food pantries – **Salvation Army and CCIA** (Canandaigua Churches in Action). Foodlink reports a 36% increase in food pantry visits from 2023 to 2024. More recently, USDA cut food funds for local schools and food banks, so our support is necessary. Donations can be placed in the shopping cart in the Welcome Center. Thank you to Ken Allen for delivering our weekly donations to the food pantries. Thank you for giving to others out of what the Lord has generously given you.

FELLOWSHIP

Game Night

Looking for something fun to do? Join us for Game Night in the Fellowship Room on **Saturday, April 12, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM**. This family-friendly event offers an opportunity for church members of all ages to come together and enjoy a variety of board games, card games, and friendly competition. Whether you're a seasoned game master or just looking to have fun, there's something for everyone. **Snacks and refreshments** will be available to enjoy as you engage in lighthearted fun and connect with others in the church community. Bring your friends, family, or come solo—Game Night is a great way to meet new people and build lasting relationships. Don't miss out on this enjoyable evening! For more information, please contact the church office. We look forward to seeing you there!



Stampin' Up

April 19 from 9:30-noon

Come join us to create some cards. No experience is needed. Cost is \$20 for 4 cards and envelopes. Please bring a tape runner or glue. I will have everything else needed. Please let me know if you are coming by Monday April 14th.



Prayer Shawl Knitting

The Prayer Shawl knitting ministry began in 2005 as a group that met monthly to make shawls to bring comfort to our church family members and friends who were experiencing difficult times of life. This group continues to meet on the **3rd Tuesday of each month, Sept-June, at 7 pm in the Fellowship Room**. Also a second group meets **each Tuesday morning from 10-11 am in the Fellowship Room**.



We invite anyone interested in participating in either group to join with us. Shawls can be knitted or crocheted. We even teach beginners. For more information contact: Rachel Rensberger at 585-394-8959 or Beverly Fehrenbach at 585-705-7408.

TREASURER



February Finances

As of the end of February, we are showing a \$21,300.35 net income. This includes the annual distribution from the Endowment Fund (\$11,959.60). This is \$12,251.04 more than was budgeted for January and February. Expenses for January and February are \$1,083.75 over budget. Donations are \$16,604.26 ahead of budget. We are still doing much better than anticipated.



Thank You

Stephen and I are so grateful for your tremendous support during this time. We count our church family as one of our many blessings and thank God for the love we've received in so many different ways. **Kory and Stephen**

On behalf of the Baer, Crow, and Hartpence families, we would like to thank you for your kindness, prayers, and support during this difficult time. The passing of our beloved father and grandfather, Robert Baer, has been a great loss, but your heartfelt cards, comforting words, and prayers have truly lifted our spirits. Your love and support have reminded us of the strength of faith and the blessing of a caring church family. We are deeply grateful for every one of you. Thank you for walking alongside us in both sorrow and hope. **Christina Hartpence**

Remembrance

Our prayers and sympathy are with the friends and family of **Paul "Ed" Gregory**, who passed away on March 3rd at the age of 96 in Arizona. Many folks may remember Ed and his late wife, Valerie as long time friends of the church. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

LILY ORDERS

Please Print Legibly

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: _____

Place this in the offering plate WITH your check made payable to "The United Church Stewards". List in the memo section "Easter Lily". You may also mail it in or bring to the church office.

ORDERS MUST BE IN NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, APRIL 6.

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



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

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Or Current Resident