

# THE UNITED CHURCH

PRESBYTERIAN – AMERICAN BAPTIST

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE: "Chorale Prelude on 'Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland', BWV 659 by J. S. Bach

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GREETING

### OUR PREPARATION

**INTROIT: "Emmanuel"**

**Focus of the day: God's covenant with us is permanent and He is faithful.**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Love has come down to us this Advent Season.

**People: God's love which heals and transforms our lives.**

Leader: With great joy, we receive that love and share it with others.

**People: We open our hearts to all God's children.**

Leader: The Lord has done and continues to do great things for us.

**All: Praise be to God who loves us so much and who challenges us to be people of joy in this darkened world. AMEN.**

**\*HYMN: "Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)" (see green insert)**

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**\*OPENING PRAYER: Lord God, as we gather this day, we open our hearts to you, seeking your healing and transforming love. Our world cries for peace; teach us the ways of peace. Be with all of us as we open our hearts to your transforming Word. Prepare us for the love which you are sending to us, for we ask this in Jesus' Name, who taught us to pray...Our Father... (using debts and debtors...) Amen.**

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**\*GLORIA PATRI: #807**

## GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH THE WORD

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 126 (page 613) {A.B. page 688}**

**SPECIAL MUSIC: (8:45) "Were You There on That Christmas Night?" by Sleeth**  
Nancy Burt-Preece, Nancy Lamberson, Wendy Stoddard, & Joy Van Riper (vocalists)  
Kateri (piano)

**ANTHEM: (11:00) "We Want to Be Ready" by Don Besig**      The United Church Choir

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**SPECIAL MUSIC: (11:00) "What Child?" by Ruth Morris Gray**   Women's Ensemble

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

(page 1171) {A.B. page 1317}

**Sermon**  
"God's Covenant"  
(Isaiah 61:8-11)  
Pastor Wade Allen

## OUR RESPONSE IN FAITH

**\*HYMN: #150 "What Child Is This?"**

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## PASTORAL PRAYER

**OFFERTORY: "O komm, o komm Emanuel" by Wilh. Monar**

**\*DOXOLOGY: #809**

**\*HYMN: #155 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

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## BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE: "March of the Kings" by Carl Simone**

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

## **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

**Health concerns:** Sara Scharr, Catherine Kurzdorfer (Adam Thorman's mother), Carlos McGregor (Mexican Missionary), Diane Molenaar (Kathy Mills' sister), Carolyn Verspoor, Hiram Bailey, Marcus (friend of Sandi DiCicco), Kainoa Coarsey (great-nephew of Kathie Meredith & David Crowe), Garrett Nayer (nephew of Karen Gardner), Jean Pollard (Ali Boseck's mom), Bob McDougal (MacKenzie Brown's uncle), Denise Loy (friend of Kory Massey), David Sanford, David Felten (husband of Mary Maida), Denice Tautges (Hiram Bailey's daughter), Jovannie Ramirez (Karen Roaix's grandson), Steve Sedlock (Nancy Tharp's brother), Clancy Cragle (Michelle's grandfather), the Herin Family (relatives of Kathie Meredith), David Crowe, Jack Schermond

**Cancer:** Tom & Monica Yurik (friends of Bruce & Deb Gardner), Bill Blance (Ed's brother), Paul Miner (brother of Linda Wells), Deb Dawson (Steve Smythe's niece), Brent Gibbs (father of Kristy Aldrich), Sasha (friend of Megan French), Roderick Simonds (father of Natalie Clark), Rob Stults (cousin of Wade and Christy Allen), Laurie Rudy, Mike Davis (friend of Guy Green), 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)

**Recovering:** Sharon Meyer, Marion Sumpter, Sara Henderson, Steve Smythe, Arlene Willett, Patti Cagwin, Kathy Mills, Shirley Kem, Mary Jane Laird

**Comfort and Peace:** Mary Zimmerman (Wendy Bacon's mother)

**MILITARY SERVICE:** US Army LT1 Andrew Marlin (Tyler Bosecks husband) deployed to South Korea, LTJG Nick Castiller (USN), MAC Adam Thorman (USN) returned from deployment, E6 Cody Wells (USN) returned from deployment, Technical Sergeant Timothy Peck (USAF) home from deployment

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

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**Corporate Prayer** - Starting January 7 - The corporate prayer time slot will change from a 9:00 AM start time to a **9:45 AM start time** (to align with the Sunday School hour). All are invited to come! Located in the **Youth Office**.

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### **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.



### **Change of address: Shirley has moved to Quail Summit!**

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

## **Highlights for This Week!**

- Today, the **Special Christmas Offering** is being taken. Use the envelopes provided, the online giving option, or simply note "Christmas" on your check.
- We need 1 **nursery volunteer** to serve on **December 24 during the 11am service**. Please let Louise Van Iseghem or Deb Marshall know if you are available.
- **THE CAUSE CHRISTMAS PARTY** - 9th-12th graders are invited to celebrate Christmas with one another during our last Cause night of the calendar year! **5PM - 7:30PM tonight**.
- **Upcoming services:**
  - **December 24, Christmas Eve** - one 4th Sunday of Advent service at 11am
  - **December 24, Christmas Eve** - Traditional Candlelight service at 7pm
  - **December 31, New Year's Eve** - one prayer service at 11am
- **Sunday school:** There is no Sunday school for the next few weeks. Sunday school will resume for all ages on **January 7**.

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**Children's Time** ~ There is Children's Time today. After the children's sermon, children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade are invited upstairs to Room 26 for an age-appropriate lesson. Parents, please pick up your children promptly after the service. Thank you!

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**Nursery care** is offered during both services (8:45 & 11:00) and during the Sunday school hour (9:45-10:45) for those too young to attend Sunday school so that parents may attend Adult classes or help in the children's program.

**8:45 Service Nursery** ~ a combined nursery meets in room 10.

**9:45 Sunday school Nursery** ~ meets in room 11, the preschool nursery. Claire Sheppard and Marcea Stave are our well-loved caretakers during this hour.

**11:00 Service Nurseries** ~ Both the Infant/Toddler Nursery (Room 10) and the Preschool Nursery (Room 11) are available.

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**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!**

## YOUTH MINISTRY

**MONTHLY CONNECT** – Middle School and High School Students Invited!

**Marcus-Whitman** - December 18 @ 2:30 PM. (Gorham Free Library)

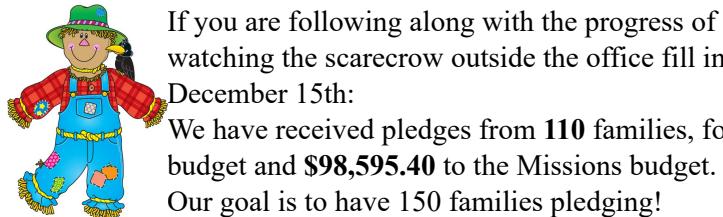
**Victor** – December 20 @ 6:45 AM. (Dunkin Donut's)

**Canandaigua** – January 10 @ 6:45 AM. (North Rd. Tim Horton's)

**THE CAUSE** -- After our Cause party this evening, our high school youth program will be on break, and returns 1/7!



**ADULT AND YOUNG ADULT EDUCATION MINISTRY** ~ Our Sunday School Classes return after the holidays on January 7!



If you are following along with the progress of our **Stewardship campaign** (and watching the scarecrow outside the office fill in!), here are the numbers as of Friday, December 15th:

We have received pledges from **110** families, for a total of **\$335,023.10** to the Operating budget and **\$98,595.40** to the Missions budget.

Our goal is to have 150 families pledging!

Gary-So-Scary is getting very colorful! Let's see if we can fill him in all the way up to his floppy green hat for the new year!

To fill out a pledge form online, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yjtsy4b4> or scan this code



**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](mailto:virginia.holroyd@uccdga.org)

## 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

**Dec 20– No Youth Club ...**

**Dec 27– Merry Christmas!**

**Jan 3 – Happy New Year!**

The **prayer shawl knitting group** will meet on Tues., Dec 19 at 7 pm. Please join us in the Fellowship room for knitting, laughter and prayer.



We hope you will join us for our annual Christmas pageant! After the pageant, we will have a birthday party for Jesus in the Fellowship Room.



**Children's Christmas Pageant**  
**TODAY at 10am**  
**In the sanctuary**

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11



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 December and January sign up sheets are 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.



**Christmas Eve ~ Help Needed in the Nursery!**

Please let Louise VanIseghem know if you can help in the nursery on **Christmas Eve** during the **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent service at 11am** or New Year's Eve during our 11am prayer service. We have an adult volunteer for both services. *We need 1 adult or 1 teen at each service.*

**WELCOME!**

A warm welcome to our new nursery coordinator! Louise VanIseghem has graciously agreed to be our nursery coordinator. She is currently working on the Winter/Spring 2024 nursery schedule, and she looks forward to getting to know some new people through this role. Louise is organized and ready to take on the tasks involved in the nursery coordinator role. **Please be sure to thank Louise for serving our church family in this way!** If you are not currently on the nursery schedule but desire to help, that's great! All volunteers working with children need to complete a simple background check. Please see Louise if you'd like to be added as a nursery volunteer and see Carolyn Russell for help with your background check. Thank you!

# MISSION NEWS

## HOPE PEACE JOY LOVE

Watching and waiting in 2023.

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “**Do not be afraid.** I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.” Luke 2:9-10

Angel's announced Jesus arrival into a broken world. Observant shepherds responded with acts of travel and worship. Initial fear was set aside and “rest is history”.

Observe the light shining through the darkness. Respond with action. The glory of the Lord shines around us. Share the good news.

Give the gifts of **HOPE PEACE JOY LOVE** to all this Christmas.



### CHRISTMAS OFFERING



On December 17 we will be receiving our annual **Special Christmas offering** (or you can give any time in December) 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. Each week a different Offering will be highlighted in the bulletin.

**The Presbyterian Christmas Joy Offering** honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. Thanks in part to this offering, church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life’s challenging circumstances. These generous actions bear witness to our faithful response to God’s charge to love one another as Christ commanded.

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! Envelopes were inserted in the Lamplighter and are in the pews. You can also write ‘Christmas Offering’ on the memo line of your check or choose the online Christmas fund.

**FoodLink** drive monthly drive-through food distribution will be tomorrow, Dec. 18. Join volunteers assisting with the distribution. Arrive at the Canandaigua township barn on 5&20 west approximately 9:30.

**Save the date:** Join together with Presbyterian and Baptist friends for a "Day of Service" on **Monday, January 15th at 10:00am in the United Church dining room.** In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. the Presbytery of Geneva is offering a "Day of Service" to assemble Church World Service (CWS) hygiene and school kits. A fellowship meal, provided by the Mission Committee, will follow the activity. The Presbytery invites you to consider funding one of these "gifts of the heart" kits as an alternative Christmas gift for friends or family. The cost of a kit is \$17. Donations marked "Gifts of the Heart" may be **mailed to Presbytery of Geneva, PO Box 24393, Rochester, NY 14624.** Please find donation cards on a bulletin board display along with a sign up sheet for attending on January 15th.

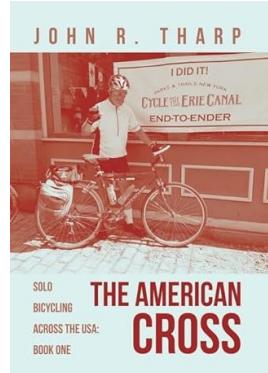


### Finger Lakes Community Band Concert at the Fort Hill Performing Art Center **TODAY! Sunday, December 17, at 3 pm**

“Gifts of Music” is an afternoon of nostalgia that will bring back all your magical Christmas Season memories. Tickets are \$15 and available at <https://fhpac.thundertix.com/events/209539> or at the box office. Several of our church members and friends participate in this band!

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

Look for a display copy and synopsis 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).



### THE NEXT FEW WEEKS....

**Sunday, December 24, 2023 –**

*No early service*

Service at 11:00am – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent service

Service at 7:00pm – Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight service

**Sunday, December 31, 2023 –**

*No early service*

Service at 11:00am *ONLY* – Prayer service

**Sunday, January 7, 2024 –**

Service at 8:45am

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45am

Service at 11:00am

The Cause, 5-7:30pm



**OUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:****IN MEMORY OF:**

Grammy & Grampy Adams  
Will & Carolyn June

Madison Danielle Davis

Our Parents

Carol McIntyre  
Sylvia Boseck

Paul Pollard  
Sylvia Boseck

John Braun  
Barbara, Allen, & Richard

Elizabeth & Helen Robinson  
Irene R. Anthony

Amanda Crow  
Loved Ones

Wilfred & Virginia Stewart  
Bruce Stewart  
Tamara Pineda

Fred D. Ferlito  
& Josh Barnes

Tom & Helen Fortunato  
Richard & Norine Eastman

George & John Gerhard  
Bridget Derr

**GIVEN BY:**

Adam, Tyler, Kevin, Christopher,

Mom, Dad, Sydney, Kendall,  
Grandma & Grandpa Bergstresser

Jack & Ardelle Bigos

Jim & Becky Boseck

Alison & Philip Boseck

His wife, Shirley Braun  
Their mother, Shirley Braun

The Anthony-Brennessel Family

The Crow Family

Kathy Eagan

Roberta Ferlito, Becky, John, Paige

Bill & Mary Beth Fortunato

Karen Gardner & Family

Our Parents; Brother; Sister

Amanda Crow  
Ian Harvey  
Bill Benedict  
Jan Barnes & Elsie Green  
Jerry Sherman  
Claude Pullis  
Dot Magley  
Joe Holroyd  
George & Joan Reineke  
Dotty Maffin  
Bill & June Adams  
Al Johnson & Maggie Rapp  
Jan Gullace

Russell Cameron

Ted Libernini  
Richard Poole  
Lou Gyoerkoe

Lawrence Hobbs  
Harold & Clare Lilholt

Margaret W. Hood  
Cynthia Chittenden  
Our mother, Marge Hood

Walter Larder  
Neola Collins

Bob McMillen  
Tink Spano

Dick Mills  
Gary Mills  
Valerie Mills Lootens

Peter Osterling  
Loved Ones

Bruce & Debbie Gardner



Sarah Gross

Dean & Lauren Gyoerkoe

Scott Hobbs

Larry Hood (husband)  
Larry Hood (father)  
Kathy Walker & Debbie O'Dell

Gary Larder

The McMillens  
Lori McMillen

Kathy Mills

The Osterling Family

Taylor Mae Payne

Mike & Roberta O'Brien  
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Peck  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Tellier  
Kayla Schroeder, Jennifer Peck

Zachary T. Pettit

Robin, Eric & Grace Payne

Jim & Ann Peck

Claude Pullis

His Family

Loved Ones

Al & Dawn Rossi

Gaynor W. Seeber

Sally & family

Jim Sheppard, Sr.

The Sheppard Family

Carol Simmons  
Harvey Dann Simmons, Sr.  
Elizabeth Hunter Simmons

Leo & Jean Van Riper  
Bruce Allen, Martha Harris  
Brad & Greg Van Riper, John Allen

John & Marilyn Ertell  
Don & Elinor Wormer  
Elizabeth Teal  
Dennis Wilk

**IN HONOR OF:**

Charles Boseck

Children & Grandchildren

The United Church Pastor,  
Staff & Church Family

In honor & thanks to our  
Wonderful Church Staff

**GIVEN BY:**  
The Boseck Family

Joyce Laursen

Bruce & Debbie Gardner

Sue, Sandi & Cathy