

**THE UNITED CHURCH**  
PRESBYTERIAN – AMERICAN BAPTIST  
**December 3, 2023**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

**PRELUDE:** *Chorale Prelude on “Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme” by J. S. Bach*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETING**

**OUR PREPARATION**

**INTROIT:** “Emmanuel”

**Focus of the day:** God is a God of redemption.

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**Leader:** Get ready, people of God! The time of hope and peace is at hand.

**People:** We are called to action rather than reaction.

**Leader:** Open your hearts to God’s word and God’s will.

**People:** Help us to be workers for God rather than observers.

**Leader:** Come, draw near to God in faith.

**All:** Let us prepare our hearts to receive the wondrous gifts of God. AMEN.

\***HYMN:** #133 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” CCLI Song #31982, Public Domain, CCLI Lic. #11593017

**\*OPENING PRAYER:** Patient and loving God, we so easily launch ourselves in preparation for the secular festival of giving and parties and the swirl of social events; but we forget that the true preparation is the readiness of our hearts to receive you. Help us look again at our lives and turn them around so that they may be in tune with your will. We pray this in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray ... (singing the Lord's Prayer)

\***HYMN #632:** “THE LORD’S PRAYER”

\***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

\***GLORIA PATRI:** #807

**GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH THE WORD**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING:** Mark 13:24-37 (page 1006) {A.B. page 1114}

**ANTHEM:** (11:00) “Light Our Darkness” by Lloyd Larson The United Church Choir

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING:** Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (page 582) {A.B. page 656}

**Sermon**

**“Come Lord Jesus, Come”**

(Isaiah 64:1-9)

Pastor Wade Allen

**OUR RESPONSE IN FAITH**

\***HYMN:** #179 “God’s Love Made Visible”

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**OFFERTORY:** *Improvisation on “The King Shall Come”*

**\*DOXOLOGY:** #809

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** (11:00) “Let Us Break Bread Together” by J.M. Stevens

Susan Gates (flute)

**COMMUNION**

\***HYMN:** #165 “I Wonder as I Wander”

CCLI Song #7061044, Public Domain, CCLI Lic. #11593017

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE:** “Lift Up Your Heads” by Lani Smith

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

*Our prayers and sympathy are with Diane Breton, for the loss of her father, Robert Williams, on November 20th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.*

*Our prayers and sympathy are with Wendy Bacon, for the loss of her father, Richard Zimmerman, on November 24th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.*

## **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

**Health concerns:** Sharon Meyer, Marion Sumpter, 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), Galen Marty (Mary Holm's father), 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), Justin Ecklund (friend of James and Sara Henderson), 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:** 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 Giovantti – the BGs (Central/South America), Tim & Patti Long (Baja Mexico), Shelvis & Nancy Smith-Mather (S Sudan refugees in Uganda), Ryan & Alethia White (Berlin)

---

## **CORPORATE PRAYER**

**WEEKLY PRAYER** – All are invited to join us in prayer!

**9:00 AM – 9:30 AM** – Youth Office

---

**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!**

- All **Angel tree gifts** are due **TODAY**, wrapped with the **tag attached**. Please see Deb Marshall if you have any questions.
  - **POINSETTIA ORDERS:** Orders for the Christmas poinsettia plants are due today. There is a stack of the green order forms on the table in front of the office door.
  - The One Great Hour of Sharing **Fish Banks** are **due today**. Please place them in the basket in the Welcome Center, or in the offering.
  - **2024 CALENDAR YOUTH FUNDRAISER** - Support our youth's 2024 mission trips by purchasing our yearly calendars! \$8 per calendar. Available after both services, until sold out.
  - **YOUTH EVENT REMINDER** - Christmas Shopping Mall Trip (December 8). Please register so that we can plan drivers.
  - **ADULT EDUCATION SUNDAY SCHOOL REMINDER** - Advent Study (Downstairs Dining Hall), Parenting Coffee Hour (Fellowship Room), and Young Adults (Bell Tower Room).
  - The **Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra "Music for the Holidays" concert** is next **Sunday, December 10 at 3pm** here at the **United Church** in the sanctuary. Tickets can be purchased at the door.
  - **ADVENT DEVOTIONALS** - Didn't have a chance to grab an Advent Devotional? Contact Mark for a copy.
- 

**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 yellow 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!

Your orders for Christmas poinsettia plants are **due TODAY!** Order forms are in the Welcome Center and today's Bulletin. The plants will be used to decorate the church and then you may take them on Christmas Eve.



## YOUTH MINISTRY

**Christmas Shopping Mall Trip:** Friday, December 8, 5:00 PM

- Middle School & High School Students
- Pick up MS'ers 9:30; HS'ers 12:00 AM



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

**Canandaigua** – December 13 @ 6:45 AM. (North Rd. Tim Horton's)

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

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



**THE CAUSE** – High School students invited!

**Sundays, 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM, at the church**

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

**WEEKLY CONNECT** – For college students through 20-somethings!

**Sundays, 12:00 PM to 12:50 PM**, young adults are invited to lunch, friends, and faith!

- Interested in hosting our young adults for lunch after church? Contact Mark Slomski.

## ADULT EDUCATION MINISTRY

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS** – Young adults and adults invited! 9:45 AM to 10:45 AM – Downstairs Dining Hall

### Adult Sunday School Classes

**Adult Ed Sunday School Class (Downstairs Dining Hall)** - Bible Project Advent Series

**Parenting Coffee Hour (Fellowship Room)** - Topics:

December 3– Saying “no” to all the extras during the holidays

December 10 – Keeping our sanity during the holidays



**Young Adult Class (Bell Tower Room)** - "Can I Ask That?" Hard Questions Curriculum

**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)

**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 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 6– Kitchen Clean up:** Sheppard, Aldrich, Pasquarelli

**Dec 6– Snack:** Sheppard

**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 December 13th – 4 dozen Christmas cut out cookies

We hope our children and youth will join us for our annual Christmas pageant! Mark your calendars for our one practice and for the pageant. Our whole church family is invited to attend the pageant on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am.



**Children's Christmas Pageant**  
**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 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

**One Practice**  
**Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 9am**  
**In the Sanctuary**

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 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.



### Christmas Angel Tree

The Christmas Angel Tree gifts are due today! Please place your **wrapped** gifts **with the tag attached** under the tree in the Welcome Center. Many thanks for sharing with others from what God has abundantly provided for you! Questions? Please see Deb Marshall.

### Children's Thanksgiving Mission Project One Great Hour of Sharing

Fish banks and sharing calendars were distributed to the Sunday School children. During the month of November, our families were invited to take part in our One Great Hour of Sharing mission project. **Fish banks are due TODAY. Please turn your fish bank in ASAP** and we'll see how God multiplies the fish and loaves we bring to bless others.



*"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40*



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 1st:

We have received pledges from **96** families, for a total of **\$299,971.30** to the Operating budget and **\$85,263.60** to the Missions budget.

Our goal is to have 150 families pledging! Our goal for the Operating budget is \$406,500.

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



## Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra Music for the Holidays

Sunday, December 10, at 3 pm

Selections from "The Nutcracker" and other Holiday Classics

Tickets available at the door (\$15 adults, \$10 students, Children 12 & under free)

## Christmas Organ Concert with organist, Ivan Bosnar, and special guest, Douglas Avery, Tenor

Saturday, December 16, at 7 pm

An evening full of Christmas classics, Carol singing, and engaging improvisations. A freewill offering will be accepted. Dessert reception following.



## Finger Lakes Community Band Concert at the Fort Hill Performing Art Center

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!

**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.

**Today** will be our last collection during this calendar year for the **Stewards Assistance Fund**. The loose cash and designated checks put in the offering plates will go to the Fund, which currently has a **critically low balance**. Your donations will be very much appreciated!

# MISSION NEWS

## With Thanksgiving and Joy

### Giving thanks for

- God inviting us into relationship with Him
- Generous contribution of 715 diapers and 17 individual packages of wipes to CareNet in November. Moms and babies are very grateful.
- Ten United Church volunteers assisting with the November 27 FoodLink distribution. (December 18 is the next opportunity to assist.)
- Together being part of the Body of Christ.
- Gifts selected from tags that hung on the Welcome Center's tree and are now wrapped under the tree.
- Loving financial contributions to our mission budget in 2023.
- Leadership of our four missionary families as they bridge cultural barriers inviting people to know, love, and follow Jesus Christ.

### Lifting our voices with JOY



The United Church team will man the Red Kettle next Saturday, December 9 at Runnings. Stop by to say "Hello" between 10 and 6.



Christmas baskets are being prepared to share JOY by St. Vincent DePaul, the Salvation Army and additional Canandaigua organizations.

The beauty of our sanctuary brings JOY as we worship together.

**God loves so richly He sent His Son! JOY JOY JOY**

---

**Stewardship Note:** Prayers and volunteering are key for effective programs. Financial contributions are also needed to support our programs.

Designate **separate** contributions for Operating and for Mission as you prayerfully complete your pledge. The Mission budget supports our local programs and our denomination programs. Some logos of organizations our mission funds support can be seen on a poster in the Welcome Center. Thanks to each of you who have completed your pledge form.

---



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.



**What is the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering?** RMMO is an American Baptist congregational offering that is collected annually in December from participating congregations. RMMO funds are distributed as thank you checks to ABCUSA retired ordained ministers and commissioned missionaries who have devoted 15 years or more to our denomination, as well as surviving spouses. A certain portion is also allocated for direct emergency assistance.

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.

---

**Called to Care, Canandaigua is preparing to welcome two Ukrainian families!** Very soon! Two Good Neighbor Teams are in place but we are reaching out to you to help with our apartment set ups including the furnishings. Please reach out to Cathy Bush our "housing" chair or Sonya Brooks, who is co-leading one of the Good Neighbor Teams, if you may have some furniture items, kitchen items, linens etc. to donate.

---

**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).

