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

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Or Current Resident

# The United Church

# The Lamplighter

11 Gibson Street



Canandaigua, NY 585-394-0503

Worship Service 8:45 and 11:00 am

**April 2023** 

Rev. Dr. Wade Allen



- **April 2** Palm Sunday
- **April 3** Trustees, 7 pm
- **April 4** Stewards, 7 pm
- **April 6** Maundy Thursday service, 7 pm
- **April 7** Good Friday, sanctuary open for prayer 9 am 1 pm
- April 9 Easter Sunday, services at 8:45 and 11 am
- **April 17** Official Board, 7 pm
- April 22 Memorial Service for William Adams, 11 am
- **April 23** Youth Club Musical, 9:45 in sanctuary
- April 30 Intergenerational Sunday School class, 9:45 in dining room
- **April 30** Baptisms



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#### **SPECIAL MEMBER BIRTHDAYS:**



Special Members are those in their 90s, and/or who are homebound, in nursing homes, or who need special care.



Please call Virginia at the church office if you need a list of addresses for our Special Members — let's send cards to let them know how much their church family cares about them!

**April 25: Betty Aquadro Owens,** 92 yrs. old. Did you know that Betty is Beth Johnson's mother, and mother-in-law of Paul Johnson? Betty moved from Canandaigua to Tennessee several years ago and has lived in a few other states including Montana, Georgia, and Colorado. Betty has always been very adventurous! Last summer, despite the arthritis in her back, she went on a river cruise on the Mississippi with her daughter, Mary, and she loves to entertain Beth and family when they journey south for a visit! *Happy Birthday Betty!* 

**April 26:** Edie Robbins, 98 yrs. old. Edie is our third oldest member, and joined our church 75 years ago in March of 1948, wow!! She worked at Kodak for many years and was active in community organizations including serving as President for Parents Without Partners. She was active with the Cheerful Service Women's Circle and enjoys visits with her church friends. Playing Bingo at 80 Parrish with other residents is a favorite pastime. Edie has three children; her sons are in S. Carolina and Rhode Island, and her daughter lives in Spain. *Happy Birthday Edie!* 

#### **Other Special Member Anniversary Milestones:**

**Ruth Bullock** joined our church **80 years ago**, on April 18, 1943!! WOW, that's quite a milestone!! She is now our longest-time member. *Thanks Ruth for your service to our church for so many years*. Note: if you don't know Ruth, you may know her family members who attend our church: daughter Nancy Abdallah and her husband, Jim; granddaughter Lauren Slomski and her husband (and our staff member) Mark and nephew Carter.

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#### **REMEMBERING:**

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 at 11 am on April  $22^{\text{nd}}$ .

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Bob Vit**, whose father, **Raymond Vit**, passed away on February 20<sup>th</sup> and **Allyson Haymes**, whose mother, **Mary Lou Haymes**, passed away on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Please keep the Vit-Haymes family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Nancy Burt-Preece**, whose mother, **Joan Elnora Burt**, passed away on March 4th. Please keep the Burt-Preece family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Kathi Nacca** for the loss of her mother, **Helen Holden**, on March 13th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with the family of **Al Johnson**, a longtime member who passed away on March 20<sup>th</sup> at the age of 96. Please keep his family in your prayers during this difficult time.

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

Excerpt from "Christ in Easter: A Family Celebration of Holy Week", by Charles Colson, Billy Graham, Max Lucado, Joni Eareckson Tada

#### A Prayer of Reflection on the Last Words of Christ

We have a fascination with the final words of the dying. With Jesus' last words we are not disappointed. Resounding through the ages in the Word of God, they stand perfect and complete. As we focus on those words, we look for a window to eternity, and in the process find a spotlight on our own soul.

#### "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34)

Lord, I hold onto a grudge like it was a treasure, but it rots my soul. Help me to let go of what I can't control and learn to forgive.

#### "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43)

Like the thief to whom You promised eternal life, I believe in Your ability to save me. Help my unbelief.

# "He said to his mother, 'Dear woman, here is your son,' and to his disciple, 'Here is your mother'" (John 19:26-27)

When I hurt, I think only of myself. Give me an unselfish heart to see and care for others who are hurting.

#### "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)

It was for me that You were forsaken. Help me to let go of the unanswered "whys?" in my life and to find peace in knowing that You are my God.

#### "I am thirsty" (John 19:28)

Give me an unquenchable thirst to know You, my Lord.

#### "It is finished" (John 19:30)

I can never add to what you have done for me. My salvation is complete. Help me to know the joy of Your grace as I serve You.

#### "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit" (Luke 23:46)

I want to surrender everything in my life to You. Teach me what that means for each new day, and give me the will to do what I know I need to do. Amen.

### Calendar page inserted here

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#### Son of David

April brings us to the Christian's most important day of the year. Resurrection Sunday is when we celebrate this pivotal moment of God's work. Three women travel to the tomb to anoint the body of their friend, their Rabbi, and their Lord, only to find it empty. Over the next forty days, they encounter the Risen Christ. We will gather on Maundy Thursday (7 PM) to contemplate Jesus' sacrifice for us and again on Easter Sunday to celebrate His Resurrection (8:45 AM and 11 AM). I hope you will join us!

Following Easter, we will begin a lengthy sermon series on the life of David. Most of us realize that Jesus is the Son of David and come to fulfill God's promise to David for an eternal kingdom. But what do we know about David? Did you know the Bible contains more chapters (141) devoted to the life of David than any other person next to God Himself? And when Jesus shows up, the Gospel writers carefully connect Him to David. Indeed, David's story is worth exploring.

The sermon series on David will extend through the summer and into the fall. If you miss a Sunday, let me encourage you to catch up online (<a href="https://bit.ly/uccdga-streams">https://bit.ly/uccdga-streams</a>), as each sermon will build on the previous.



#### March Worship Schedule and Readings

- April 02 Crucified (Matthew 27:11-54) Additional Readings: Philippians 2:5-11, Psalm 31:9-16, Isaiah 50:4-9a
- April 09 He Is Risen (Matthew 28:1-10) Additional Readings: Acts 10:34-43, Colossians 3:1-4, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
- April 16 After God's Heart (1 Samuel)
- April 23 Unlikely Choice (1 Samuel 15:34-16:13)
- April 30 David's Songs (1 Samuel 16:14-23) The QR code below will take you to the streaming page







#### **EASTER LILY PLANTS:**

All the lilies that members ordered will beautify our Sanctuary for Easter Sunday...remember to take your plant(s) home right after the Easter Services for your family to enjoy.

Thanks so much for your orders!

THE STEWARDS ASSISTANCE FUND: Donations to the Stewards Assistance Fund help those in our church family who are going through financial challenges. If *you* need some assistance *or know of someone* in our church family who does, please contact Virginia Holroyd at the Church. Monies have been given to help pay for groceries, car repairs, electric bills, other household expenses, and medical expenses. The recipients of these funds are very, very appreciative!!

Thank you for helping your church family!



#### Special Easter Offering for The One Great Hour of Sharing. Sunday, April 9

Each year at Easter time our church joins with many others in taking an offering for the One Great Hour of Sharing. And each year there seems to be a disaster, a tragedy, suffering, hunger, and poverty and our help is needed in various places in our world. This year is certainly no

exception! Your contributions to the One Great Hour of Sharing will make a difference in the lives of these people in need. Both the American Baptist and the Presbyterian USA denominations use the gifts from us to improve the quality of life for individuals and communities all over the world.

As we continue to pray for those in need let us open our hearts and give generously as we share God's love with our neighbors in need. You will find envelopes in this newsletter and in the pews. Please mark your gifts for OGHS. Remember, if we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

#### Feeding the Hungry...

Though we live in a very financially blessed country, there are people that go to bed hungry each night. Food insecurity has greatly increased of late for many reasons.

Throughout the Bible we are encouraged to reach out to the needy and share our blessings. Feeding the needy is part of serving one another and as we serve others, we are serving Christ.

#### You, the people of The United Church, are truly wonderful, obedient followers of Christ.

Each week, you provide food to the Food Cart in the Fellowship Hall. Your kindness and generosity is then distributed to the Food Pantries of CCIA (Canandaigua Churches in Action) and Salvation Army.

A portion of your financial gifts to the Mission budget also help to support these and other mission groups that feed the needy.

**THANK YOU and GOD'S BLESSINGS** for all you do. Those that receive your gifts also express their Thanks and Blessings for what you are doing. **THANK YOU!** 

#### **Family Promise**

Family Promise's guests are starting to have a greater need for assistance with grocery and gas purchases. Family Promise asks their guest parents to do their own grocery shopping using their own SNAP benefits (formerly known as Food Stamps), and then help them with gift cards once they have used up those monthly benefits. However, SNAP assistance is being reduced at the end of March and, as we all know, the cost of groceries has increased! The current guest families consist of 6 single moms, 1 single dad and 24 children and more of the graduate families will also be experiencing food insecurity. The need for gift card assistance will be greater than ever.

Our church has been asked to collect grocery and gas gift cards to help their guests during the second half of April. Walmart, Tops, and Aldi are the most appreciated grocery cards, in \$25, \$50, or \$100 denominations. Kwik Fill, Exxon/Mobil, and Speedway gas cards are also very helpful and at Speedway they can be labeled "Fuel Purchases Only." If you can help these struggling families, please leave the gift cards in the church office or place in a marked envelope in the collection plate by Sunday, April 30. Thank you for your support of these families in need.

#### **Church World Service kits**

During the month of March we collected supplies needed to complete **school kits for CWS**. **Items will be accepted through April 16.** There is a box in the Welcome Center where you may leave individual items and we will then pack the bags, or you may leave completed kits. Listed here are needed items.

- •One pair blunt scissors (rounded tip only)
- •Three 70 count bound notebooks, or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose leaf or filler paper)
- •One 12-inch ruler
- •One hand held pencil sharpener
- •One large eraser (no pencil cap erasers)
- Six new unsharpened pencils with erasers
- •One pack of 24 crayons

All donations are welcome! If you cannot shop for items but would like to help with this mission please consider a donation towards the \$2.00 per bag processing fee that our church will be responsible for providing. Let's help the United Church share love and hope around the globe.

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Description	Feb 2023 Amount	Budget	
Income			
Total Giving	101,591.57	67,500.00	
			(budget includes transfer
Other Income	8,756.32	9,238.96	from surplus of \$6,318.43)
Total Income	110,347.89	76,738.96	
Spending			
Education and Ministry	5,055.39	5,290.02	
Operating	12,226.47	10,808.37	
Personnel & Related	59,350.86	60,422.26	
Total Expenses	76,632.72	76,520.65	•
Net Income Year to Date	33,715.17	218.31	

Several donors paid their entire pledge for 2023 in January and we received a check from one of the investment firms for part of the annual amount from the Endowment Fund. We are still waiting for a check from the other investment firm. It is worth noting that even with the extra cash flowing in, we are spending as much as we are depositing. We have not yet had to withdraw any money from savings.

Nancy Lamberson
Treasurer

### **Online Giving**

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



Welcome to

Our Church

#### **Stampin Up**

The April class will be a Card Buffet with your choice of **10 cards out of a selection of 15**. If you want to make a Mother's Day card, I would need to know that also. Reservations need to be made by April 1st and a check for \$32 payable to Sharon Meyer and mailed to her. Please bring your lunch and drink. Class is from **9:30-2:30** with door prizes.

#### **GREETERS of ALL AGES are needed for our Services in APRIL:**

Greeters play a very important role in extending hospitality to all those who come to worship with us on Sundays. Greeters welcome people as they enter the church building, they hand out Bulletins, and they collect the Offering at each Sunday Service. This is a role where kids can help too!

The **Sign-up Sheet** is on the **Church Office door**. Reminders and instructions are emailed the Friday before your scheduled Sunday. If you have any questions about being a Greeter, please talk with Virginia Holroyd, any Steward (listed on the back of the Sunday Bulletin), or the **March Steward of the Month, Bill Fortunato**. *We really appreciate your service!* 

# NOTES ON MINISTRY LIFE...

## Reflections

Recently, I spent a day on a prayer retreat. My time alone with God was quite ordinary and quiet (intentionally so). I started with devotional material (including the Lenten devotional) at a coffee shop for a couple hours. After, I drove to a local sanctuary and prayed in silence, using selected Psalms as a guide. Towards the end, I drove to a park where I returned to some more devotional reading.

It amazes me how God designed humans in such a way that we seek prayerful retreats. For me, it wasn't until my days in seminary when I became aware of my need for them. We see repeated in Scripture when our faith ancestors leave their everyday chores behind to be alone with God. As part of my pastoral career, I aim to follow in the footsteps of pastors before me (and beside me) and maintain this priority. *Pray for me, please!* 

Have you "left your daily chores" to be alone with God? If you never have, what would it take to dedicate a few hours to do so? Where would you go, and what would you bring?

# Learnings

I am currently reading a book on the doctrine of justification. This doctrine's exact definition and nature does cause great disagreement among various Christian traditions, and a deep dive quickly gets into technicalities that are hard to soak in. At this point of the book I'm reading (aptly named *Justification*, by NT Wright), I've grappled with the general concept (though, the technical work is dauntingly around the corner!).

Below is a way of thinking about justification (an *event/process by which we are made/declared righteous*):

**OUR STORY** – How justification plays out through time

**Past** – Abraham and his children were in *covenant* with God to redeem and restore all of creation. After all those years of infidelity by God's chosen people, Jesus came and *vindicated* all who believe. When Jesus *rose again* from the dead, God's new creation (that which is redeemed & restored) had begun!

**Present** – Today, we (followers of Jesus) are in an era when the Kingdom of God is "at hand" (in other words, *here, but not yet*!). Restoration has begun, and we are at the front of the parade to joyfully proclaim and celebrate the Good News!

**Future** – In the end of days, the *fullness of God's new creation will be inaugurated! Jesus will be the judge* in the end, and the King at whose name every knee shall bow!

**GOD'S NATURE** – *How God's nature shapes justification* 

**Father** – Our Creator set out to work though His people, establishing a covenant with His people *to make the world right again*.

**Son** – Jesus (the Messiah) *fulfilled the covenant when God's people could not*. It is Jesus (and His resurrection) that brings utter assurance of creation's full restoration.

**Holy Spirit** – *God operates through His people by the power of the Spirit* until the end of days. God's people become what they were always called to be (His children).

SUMMARY – God's promises are true! Jesus redeemed us! The Spirit is now in us as we are being made new!

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

Treasurer's Financial Summary for February 2023

Called to Care, Canandaigua is celebrating its first year as a volunteer organization with a mission "to promote and facilitate the resettlement of refugees in Canandaigua by providing a support network to help them start a new life." We have come a long way since that first April meeting in 2022. We have learned much and still have much to learn. But we have also accomplished much. Strong leadership, committed volunteers, generous financial support, and a welcoming community have assisted three families in beginning new lives here among us. Thanks be to God for all of that.

Our organization is supporting these families, two from Ukraine and one from Haiti, during their first several months by providing housing, paying rents and utilities, helping with transportation, clothing, food and any costs related to registering for work authorization or other documents. *Called to Care, Canandaigua* acts as a collective support circle, in place of an individual sponsor, to provide the cultural and practical connections to enable the refugee(s) to become established and independent in our community.

As we plan for our second year we will move from a "core group" of leaders to an elected board with officers and at large members and we are considering 501(c)(3) non-profit status. We will be working more closely with World Relief Western NY and forming Good Neighbor Teams to welcome and resettle the next refugee families.

We continue to need and recruit new volunteers for the varied committees who do the work of resettlement. Monthly informational meetings have resumed and will be held from 4-6pm on the 3rd Mondays of the month at St. Mary's Church, 95 North Main Street. The April 17th informational meeting will include a special celebration honoring our first year and an election of Board members who will lead the organization through a second year.

We invite you to join us in the work of welcome. Please speak with Cathy Bush or Linda Werts to learn more.



Monday, April 24, is our next **Drive Though Food Pantry** at the Highway Dept Barn in Canandaigua. The pantry is **open to all, 11am – 1pm** or until food is gone.

**Volunteers** are needed starting at 9:30 am to set up, unload the truck and package the food for families driving through.

This free food distribution is especially helpful due to the reduction of SNAP benefits that began in March and the rising prices of groceries. Can you help?

**NEW LOCATION:** Highway Dept Barn, 5440 Rt 5 & 20, Cdga. Questions or to volunteer, please see Cathy Bush or Don Rensberger.



#### **Grace Payne's Outhouse Project Returns!**

Started as an idea for her Gold Award in Girl Scouts last year, Grace's outhouse has made the rounds and will be at the United Church through mid-April.

The point of the outhouse is to hold donations from the congregation, to be taken to organizations such as The Salvation Army, CCIA, Care Net, etc.

The donations should consist of paper products such as:

- paper towels
- toilet paper
- wipes, etc.
- feminine hygiene (pads, tampons)
- baby items (diapers, baby wipes, lotion, baby powder, diaper cream)

After the 4 weeks, Grace will take the donations to the organizations and move the outhouse to another church or location within the county.

What Is Supply A Smile? ~ Supply a Smile is a local organization associated with Canandaigua Churches in Action (CCIA), serving uninsured residents of Ontario County with free dental services for adults age 18 and older, and is limited to cleanings, fillings, and extractions. Services are provided by area dental offices.

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To start the process, please attend a dental screening the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of April or May, 9-10am to have your needs evaluated at the Canandaigua Elementary School Cafeteria.

Questions: Please call 585-376-2242 or email supplyasmile@gmail.com.

February 7-19 the United Church - Elmira Baptist team successfully supported Isaac Fley, Dr. Woo M.D., Christy Lafferty (Am Baptist missionary), Jilmer Sanchez (in country project leader), and AMOS in the Nicaaragua community of El Socorro.



#### Empowerment of Local Leaders is the AMOS model

Local leaders have the power to create positive change within their communities.



AMOS trains and empowers local leaders to identify needs, set goals, create plans for action, conduct research, collect data, and analyze progress towards their community's health priorities. The "Seeds of Esperanza" scholarship program supports local health promoters in attending nursing school or continuing their health education. Empowering local leaders promotes long-lasting change!

The request for Solar electric service and water filters in El Socorro came from AMOS staff. AMOS provides leadership and assistance to twenty-five rural communities.

Mike Walker, Lindsay Mills (US project coordinator), George Denmark (solar electric expert), and Dan Talada (carpenter) were the advance team arriving two days early. This group confirmed

components had

arrived, assembled and tested materials, and constructed wooden components at the AMOS compound. (A Nica style Home Depot was available nearby.)

Lynn, Don, plus Elmira members Eddie Kirkpatrick, Chuck Wells, and Jason Mills joined the advance team to assist construction and prepared 40 home water filtration systems before heading up country.

Jilmer and Christy led the nine AMOS staff members and our nine US members as we secured the food, solar electric components, water filtration buckets, medicine cabinet, our cots, and our personal items for the six hour drive to El Socorro.



Health Promoter Isaac Fley welcomed our return to his community. Isaac. Community members had prepared for our arrival by removing trees (sunlight needed!), done site work, arranged housing, and organized volunteers. (Don, Lindsay, and Eddie, 2023 team members, had worked with Isaac in 2015 on the first NY and PA Nicaragua mission team!)

Forty-eight hours after our El Socorro arrival George Denmark and the electrical team had the lights on!

# **ADULT MINISTRY**

# Reflections

This year's **Lenten devotional** was based on the Gospel of Matthew. This Gospel account guides us in discovering God's plan for His people. In fact, we learn how God works through His *family* (read Matthew 1) to *rescue* the whole world. To *rescue* is to bring God's kingdom to earth (read Mathew 6:10). To have God's kingdom *on earth as it is in heaven* means *Immanuel* ("God with us") will be with His people, just as He always wanted to be (read Matthew 28:20b).



Over the last 2,000 years, Lent has been expressed in a variety of ways. What has stayed the same through all that

time is its purpose: to prepare ourselves for Easter. So, in reflection, **are we ready for Easter?** Have we prepared ourselves to joyfully receive and proclaim the Good News? Are we ready to fully believe (and act in response to that belief) that God's promises are true and the Kingdom of God is at hand? Are we ready to be known as "Easter People" and "Kingdom People"?

# Learnings

**Parenting Coffee Hour** – The following list is just a glimpse into the topics this Sunday School group converses on. Come and join this group, enjoy the coffee/snacks, and discuss these important topics!

- > Talking to your kids about loss of a loved one & why does God let bad things happen
- Anxiety in kids and/or parents
- Recognizing and valuing our kid's God-given gifts
- > Building in time for yourself and spiritual growth

**Book of Psalms** – This Sunday School class starts every gathering with opening discussion. Then, after watching a captivating teaching from the content facilitator, the group reflects on their learnings (with the help of a handy-dandy handout!). Our attendees are also provided mid-week materials to engage with the Scriptures!

**Young Adult Group** (Saturday @ 11:00 AM) – This group continues to gathers for food, fellowship and Bible Study. Currently the group is reading verse-by-verse through the Book of Job. The group has spent notable time on reflecting on & learning about the nature of suffering.

**Young Adult Group** (Sunday) – This new Sunday School class meets in the Bell Tower room, and is learning about biblically-based leadership! *IMPORTANT* – Coffee is available & abundant!

**Men's Breakfast** (Wednesday @ 7:00 AM) – This group of faithful men have been reading through the Upper Room daily devotional. Come and join our men's group for sharing of food, fellowship, and faith!

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

# YOUTH MINISTRY

# Reflections

Our youth enjoyed a **Game Night** at the church, including middle school and high school students. We started the event in worship, and then broke off into various games and activities. Thank you to our faithful volunteers

who built relationships with our students and ensured we conducted a safe event!

Our students also spent time with other youth at Crosswind's annual **Lasergeddon** event. With a total of 150 students, the church was busy with numerous games, movies, and laser-tag games happening at the same time! Each laser-tag team also had a small group time where they learned more about why we need Jesus and the church.



# Learnings

At **The Cause**, our students have been engaging the contents of the book titled "3 Big Questions That

**Youth Game Night** 

Change Every Teenager". Our students are currently on a 10-week plan to consider those three big questions, namely: "Who Am I?"; "Where do I Belong?"; and "What Difference Can I Make?". We are spending 3 weeks on each question, with the final week serving as a full conclusion.

Within this 3-week cycle, we do the following: **Week 1** includes student engagement with the survey questions from the book. **Week 2** includes a deep dive into a Bible study, along with a teaching on that particular passage. **Week 3** is a reflective/application week, to review our learnings and find creative ways to live out our foith!

## 2023 Fundraisers

**Potato Bar** – Over \$600 raised! (donations go to supporting our workcampers)

**Souper Bowl of Caring** – Over \$500 raised! (donations go to Canandaigua Churches in Action)

**M&M Fundraiser** – Estimated \$900 raised! (donations go to supporting our workcampers)

Work Camp Shareholders – March (donations go to supporting our workcampers)

**Chicken BBQ's** – May & June (donations go to supporting our workcampers)

**2024** Calendar Sales – November & December (donations go to supporting our youth program)

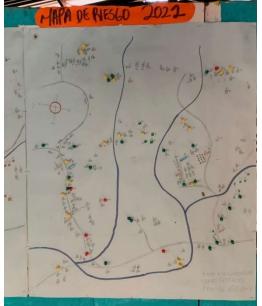
Can & Bottle Returns – Staples Redemption Center – Donate to "The United Church of Canandaigua"



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#### Water filters were placed in remotely located homes

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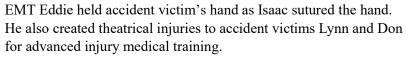




Each home visited was filled with love and hope. Active observers as the water filters were installed included children, chickens, and dogs. Many homes had earthen floors. Some kitchens had running water and a few had wooden floors.



A family was to soon make this their first family home. They wanted a water filter system to protect their child's and their own health with. Water needed to be carried from a distant tap in a pail to this house. Love and Hope. Patience, hope, and endurance.







Many prayers and the financial support enable Isaac and AMOS to more efficiently provide essential services. PRAISE BE TO GOD!

See Mike, Lynn, or Don for additional information.

AMOS executive director Dr. Gabriella Woo (MD) and Christy Lafferty (Baptist missionary) extend an invitation for a United Church intergenerational team come serve. We can Share Love, Hope, and Christ as we walk together.



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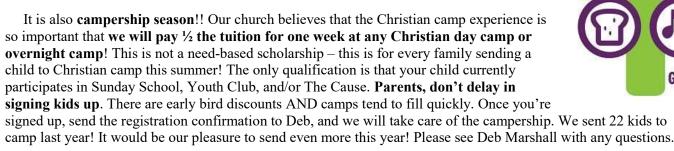
## CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

## What's happened...

Children of all ages **invited school teachers** to join us on **Sunday, March 26** during the 11am service. This is one of our favorite Sundays. We get to welcome special guests and let our school teachers know how grateful we are for all that they do. After the service, we had a cookie and punch reception in the Fellowship Room. **Thank you** to all who **baked treats, set up, served, and cleaned up** to make our reception a success!

## What's happening...

April is the last month of Youth Club, and we have a lot of fun things planned! We will have 1<sup>st</sup> graders visit Youth Club on April 12 so that they know what to expect when they can begin attending in the fall of 2023. Youth Club kids will perform the musical they've been working on, The Big Fish, on April 19. And our last Youth Club, on April 27<sup>th</sup>, will include our annual carnival and a special dinner that includes parents, volunteers, and Youth Club kids! We look forward to lots of fun and continued deepening of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.



# Upcoming Events...

- **April 2** Palm Sunday; children's palm parade during 11am service
- April 9 Easter Sunday Christ is RISEN! (no Sunday school)
- **April 12** 1<sup>st</sup> graders can visit Youth Club
- **April 19** Youth Club musical at 6pm
- April 23 Youth Club musical during Sunday school hour, at 9:45am
- **April 26** Last Youth Club; pizza dinner and celebration with parents
- **April 30** Intergenerational Sunday School class in downstairs dining room; Communicants class may join and/or be baptized if they choose

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- May 21 Sunday School celebration breakfast and Children's Day service at 11am
- May 28 One service of Worship begins at 9:30am

## Save the dates and register!



July 10-14 – Stellar VBS, 9am -12noon, for kids ages 4-years-old through those who completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
Register using the QR code →

