


The United Church
11 Gibson Street

The Lamplighter



Canandaigua, NY
585-394-0503

February 2022

Worship Service 8:45 and 11:00 am

Rev. Dr. Wade Allen



- Feb 1** – Stewards, 7 pm
- Feb 7** – Trustees, 7 pm
- Feb 18-19** – Lasergeddon, 8 pm – 7:30 am
- Feb 21** – Church office closed – Presidents Day
- Feb 21** – Official Board, 7 pm

February



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Special Member February Birthdays:

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

*Ages aren't listed below for those under age 90.

Please call the Office if you need a list and addresses for our Special Members – let's send cards to let them know how much their church family cares about them!




Feb. 8: Cyndi Chittenden, resides at Ewing Continuing Care (Larry Hood's daughter)

Feb. 21: Ann Feltham, **99!** Ann is Wendy Stoddard's mother and she is our oldest member!! Let's make sure she gets 99 cards! Ann resides at Quail Summit.

Feb. 23: Nancy Purdy, resides at home

Feb. 25: Bob Ledgerwood, resides at home

 **Some wonderful Special Member news:** Once in a while, a member graduates **off** the Special Member list - one who is less than 90 years old and who was temporarily under our watchful care because of serious medical issues. This is the case for Debbie Gardner. We lift up praises to God for Debbie's improved health over the past year, and we're so glad to see Debbie back in the pews with Bruce. They are both very appreciative of all the prayers, support, and cards that they both have received over the past few years from their church family!

REMEMBERING:

Our prayers and sympathy are with **David Sanford**, whose brother, **Bruce**, passed away on December 17th. Please keep the Sanford family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Eleanor Oskamp**, whose husband of 77 years, **Harold Oskamp**, passed away on December 30th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with the family of **Suzanne Gill**, who passed away on January 1st. Please keep her children, **Whitney, Lindsay, Anthony, Sonata, and Paris** and their families in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Rich Bush**, whose brother, **Howard**, passed away on January 10th. Please keep the Bush family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with the family of **Virginia Dudley**, who passed away on January 13th. Virginia was one of our special members and was 94. Please keep her family in your prayers.

CELEBRATING:

On January 8th, **John and Linda Daggs** celebrated their 50th Golden Wedding Anniversary. They renewed their vows 25 years ago at The United Church.

* *Please let the church office know of your family news.*

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 Outreach Chair: Sue Vadney, at (585) 739-8615

SAVE THE DATES for VBS!

Kick-off: Sunday, July 17th at 6:30pm

VBS: July 18-22, 2022, 9am-12noon

Join us for an off-road Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids will form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead.



Winter Break...

There will be no Sunday School Zoom for children or MS/HS students on Sunday, February 20th due to Winter Break.

Sunday Mornings

NURSERY CARE

is offered during:

8:45am Worship Service

9:45-10:45am Sunday School Hour

11:00am Worship Service

Please let Deb Marshall know if you'd like to volunteer in the nursery. All volunteers complete a background check.

Children's Time is offered for children in K-2nd grade during the 11:00am worship service. After the children's sermon, have your child follow the Children's Time teachers to the fellowship room for an age-appropriate lesson.

Lent



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of **Lent**, the 40 days that lead up to the observation of Christ's death and resurrection. It is a time when Christians reflect on Christ's sacrifice on the cross for our sins that we may be forgiven. This year, Lent begins on March 2, Ash Wednesday, and ends with the observation of Holy Week and Resurrection Sunday (Easter) on April 17.

Lenten devotionals for our children will be distributed in Sunday school on February 27, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. If we miss you, please see Deb Marshall or your Sunday School teacher. We hope this special time of doing Lent devotions together with your family will draw you closer to our faithful Savior Jesus the Messiah.



Youth Club

**Our Wednesday afterschool ministry
For children in 2nd—8th grade
3:15—6:30 ~ October through April
Bible Study ~ Worship ~ Recreation ~ Family Time**

Youth Club Service Project: Birthday Bags for CCIA

February is Birthday Bag month at Youth Club! During Youth Club, students will decorate and fill Birthday Bags for the Canandaigua Churches in Action (CCIA) Food Pantry. These birthday bags will be available at the food pantry for families celebrating birthdays! This project has been well received!

Donations needed are:

- box cake mix
- can frosting
- birthday candles
- birthday napkins
- colorful balloons.

Please bring donations to Deb's office by Feb 6th. We fill the birthday bags at Youth Club on Feb 9th. Thank you!



Youth Club Special Outing: Bowling at Roseland Bowl

On March 23, 2022, the Youth Club kids are going bowling! This is our once a year "field trip" for YC. We still arrive at church the same way, at the same time of day. However, once we've had snack, we di-

vide up into cars and head to Roseland Bowl. We have fun bowling for a while, and then we end our night with pizza for dinner!



Parents, please note that you need to pick up your kiddos EARLY at 5:30pm at Roseland Bowl. Also, please send in \$5 to help cover the cost of bowling and pizza. Thank you!

Y.C. Parent Duties— Kitchen Clean Up

☉Feb 2: McFetridge,
Whitcomb

☉Feb 9: Clark,
Pasquarelli

☉Feb 16: Whitcomb

Youth Club Themes:

February 2—
Birthday Night!

February 9—
Superbowl Night!

February 16 —
Fruit of the Spirit
Night!

February 23—
Winter Break—No
Youth Club

☉Feb 23: No YC—
winter break

Y.C. Parent Duties— Snack (for 50 kids)

☉Feb 2: Beyrle
 ☉Feb 9: French
 ☉Feb 16: Cloutier
 ☉Feb 23: No YC

Bakers/Prep needed for Youth Club:

☉For Feb 2— frosted
cupcakes

☉For Mar 9 — jello
made ahead

☉ For Mar. 30 —
pudding made ahead

THE STEWARDS ASSISTANCE FUND helps those in our congregation who need temporary financial assistance during challenging times. In 2021, distributions helped pay for groceries, medicine, rent, car repairs, heating, home repairs and other essentials.

If you or someone you know in our church family needs a little help, please contact Virginia at the church office or at virginia.holroyd@uccdga.org. All distributions are kept confidential. Donations may be made to the Assistance Fund at any time during the year. Thanks so much!

The GREETER Sign-up Sheet: we could use your help!

We need **Greeters** for both Services each Sunday in **February**. These volunteers greet people as they enter the church building and they hand out Bulletins.



Please sign up on any Sunday that you're available, the **Sign-up Sheet** is on the Church Office door. Reminders are emailed the Friday before the Sunday you're volunteering. If you have any questions, please contact Virginia Holroyd or call the Office. *We really appreciate your service to our church famiy in this way!*



Thank you to our church family for all of the help in the last year and also all of the cards and letters sent to my mother, **Dorothy LaBrake**.

Karen Roaix

Thank you for thinking of me for my birthday and Christmas. I really appreciate all of the cards and messages.

Esther Pullis

From your **United Against Cancer Relay for Life Team: Daffodil Days** may be back!! Watch the bulletin for info about a possible daffodil sale!



Stewardship

If you have not yet submitted a pledge form, you may return your forms to the offering plate, the pledge box, via the mail or even do it online at our website or by scanning this code.



The February **Stampin' Up** class is scheduled for **Feb 19** at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Room. We will make the 5 cards pictured. Please call or email Sharon Meyer (585-924-8792 or sharmeyer@gmail.com) to sign up by Feb 13.





Easing Burdens

Wearing masks and doing Missions. The power of the Gospel remains unchanged in the Age of COVID. 785 individuals and 319 households received Christmas baskets from the local Salvation Army. Each tag taken from the angel tree provided a gift of love. Thanks for the United Church kettle bell ringing team. Mask wearing, travel restrictions, and some “lock downs” continue to require COVID changes to the way The Church engages in 2022.

The January Nicaragua US team was unable to go due to COVID caution. Plans changed. Details for solar electric installation in three additional remote clinics were completed February to August 2021. Materials were purchased and received in Nicaragua. Our AMOS Health and Hope missionary partnership working with Technosol, our solar energy equipment supplier, found experienced workmen for the installation. The initial request for rural solar electric installations for clinics was presented in 2017 to a mission team. Clinic installations were completed each year 2018-2020. Light eases the burden as health promoters provide services.

COVID realities has caused a postponement of the Tabi Mexico water treatment installation scheduled for this month. (see article below) The need for the project remains. Prayers for friends in Tabi, the US team, and Living Waters for the World as plans adjust.

Contributions to the food cart and winter coat bin located in our Welcoming Center lift the burden for our Canandaigua neighbors. Hygiene kits from Church World Service lift the burden to people made homeless by “natural disasters” and political refugees. Canandaigua Churches in Action, the Salvation Army, CWS, and our international missionaries express thanks for our assistance to ease burdens.

Thanks for the generous contributions. “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

Update on the Newark Rotary & Living Waters for the World Tabi Project and February Trip...

Well... in the blink of an eye Covid can change many things. Our February trip to Mexico is one of them. Our trip is now “off” due to our partners’ valid concerns over increasing Covid risk both for themselves and for us coming. But progress on the building continues well, plans are in process for health and spiritual sessions, and we are ready to send our 3rd payment including funds for a new well, doors and windows for the building, and 250 garrafones. 430 beautiful bookmark gifts have been assembled by Randy Kennard and several others. Our Team remains flexible, resourceful, trusting, and open to God’s plan for bringing clean water, sanitation, economic development and more importantly for building a relationship with our Tabi partners from the Bet-El Presbyterian Church and their community. We are now exploring a Spring trip and plans for an online auction fundraiser through 32auctions are in place.

“Wings and Wheels of Love” will run January 26th through February 4th and offers Valentine themed baskets, Mexican delights, gift cards and more. Please visit <https://www.32auctions.com/LivingWaters> to learn more. Once again our entire Team sends United Church members and the Mission Committee a huge thank you for your financial and prayerful commitment and support for this project. Ken Allen, Linda Werts



Upcoming Youth Dates

2/6 - Cause (5-7:30)
2/13 – NO Cause – Enjoy the Super Bowl
2/18 – Lasergeddon (8pm-7:30am)
2/20 – NO Cause – Feb Break
2/27 – Workcamp Meeting #3 (12:00)
2/27 - Cause (5-7:30)
3/6 - Cause (5-7:30)
3/12 – HS event - Tubing
3/13 - Cause (5-7:30)
3/20 - Cause (5-7:30)
3/27 – Workcamp Meeting #4 (12:00)
3/27 - Cause (5-7:30)

Lasergeddon – February 2022!

Middle and high school students will be excited to know that Lasergeddon is back for 2022! Join other area students for a night filled with laser tag and other games.

8:00 pm Friday 2/18 to 7:30 am Saturday 2/19 at Crosswinds Church.
Sign up at <https://crosswinds.church/lasergeddon/>
Final registration 2/6 and cost is \$30.

High Schoolers – Save the Date

We’re planning on going Tubing at Greystone Tubing in Walworth on **March 12** (weather permitting). If they can’t be making snow, we’ll have an event at church instead. Either way – mark your calendars now!

Workcamp – July 9-16, 2022 in Dexter, ME

July seems far off, but 5 months will pass quickly and there is much to do to prepare! If you are planning on attending and haven’t signed up yet, be sure to reach out to Chelsea Emmal or Ray McMillen. We have a number of fundraisers planned to help offset part of the cost of the trip. Scholarships are available if needed.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming Workcamp meetings: 2/27/22 and 3/27/22. Both will be held after the 11:00 service in the dining room. These meetings are mandatory for all students attending workcamp.

M&M Fundraiser for workcamp

We’ll be handing out mini M&M containers on 2/6. The congregation is invited to enjoy the sweet treat and then fill the container with a donation for workcamp. We’ll ask that containers be returned by 2/13 and 2/20.

Students attending workcamp, please sign up to help pass out the canisters on 2/6 at either service.

Prayer Partners Needed

Workcamp is a transformative experience for many who are involved. Please consider supporting attendees by becoming a prayer partner! Sign up on the Youth Bulletin Board and then more information will follow.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook: @UnitedChurchYouthCDGA



Instagram: united_church_youth

Adult Ministry



Sunday School groups at 9:45

Young Adults: “Defending Your Faith” -- how can you know the Bible is absolute truth and God’s inspired Word? (Bell Tower Room)

Book of Judges: Our series continues -- get to know Deborah, Gideon, Samson and other leaders of Israel, bold or flawed, but always part of God’s plan. (Fellowship Room)

Topical class: Watch the Bulletin for upcoming class themes and speakers. We plan to study spiritual warfare with Chip Ingram, the Lord’s Prayer with Max Lucado. (Dining Room *and via Zoom*)

Podcasts so good they’re almost nerdy! (Thank you, Mark Slomski, for recommending)

“Ask NT Wright Anything” – Wright is an author and New Testament scholar, 20-minute episodes. Yes, anything!

“In Faith & Doubt” – Nijay Gupta and AJ Swoboda. Timely discussions for many societal struggles we are seeing in Christian circles. Gupta is professor at Northern Seminary, where Pastor Wade earned his doctorate.

Men’s Conference – Saturday, March 19
“Iron Sharpens Iron” an all-day event in Hamburg, NY. Details about keynote speakers, breakout sessions, registration, cost and carpooling coming soon. See Paul for info.

* * * * *

Questions, suggestions: Contact Paul Johnson, Director of Adult Education, 585-794-2746

“Whoever is thirsty, let him come;
And whoever wishes, let him take the free gift
of the water of life.” Revelation 22:17b

Lord,
I thirst

This present world of violent words and deeds,
Of contempt poured out on one another,
Depletes me

I am thirsty
For righteousness
For reconciliation
For our divisions to be healed

I am thirsty
For a kind word
For truth – not hyperbole or bias
For repentance
That leads to healing

Lord,
May we not be tools for the enemy
Who gloats at the chaos he has stirred up
In our hearts
In our nation
In our world

Lord,
May we recognize that our clamor,
Our malcontent,
Our emptiness
Is a thirst that can only be sated in you.

Lord,
Grant us hearts of repentance
Open our eyes to damage we’ve caused
And flood our hearts with compassion for the
other
Heal our hurting world.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Cathy Bush 12/4/21

Silent Auction 2022 ~ TO BENEFIT MISSION TRIPS

WE NEED YOU!

Can you make, rake, bake or have a boat on the lake? Do you have a service to offer or an item to donate? We are looking for quality items such as:

Boat rides	Housecleaning	Quilting Lessons
Computer lessons	Baked goods	Painting
Haircuts	Babysitting	Lawn mowing
Gardening	Quilts	Knitting lessons
Gift Baskets	Pet sitting	Wooden creations
Gift certificates	Afghans	Other

Please fill out a donation form and place it in the box in Gathering Area **by May 1.**

Items will be needed by May 15th and will go on display the beginning of June. **Donated items will be accepted any time the office is open or Sunday mornings.**

Don’t have a donation? You can help by being a bidder/buyer of items that have been donated.
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Supply A Smile ~ FREE Dental Program

CCIA (Canandaigua Churches In Action) is proud to support Supply a Smile (SAS), a free dental program which began in January 2011. SAS’s goal is to provide dental services to individuals who are not covered by dental insurance. Dental services provided are: fillings, cleanings, and extractions. The process for care begins with a visit to SAS’s monthly screening at the Canandaigua Elementary School cafeteria. With first come first served, the doors are open at 8:30 am and screenings start at 9:00 am. Each month there are a limited number of appointments available so not everyone may be screened or receive an appointment for that month. We encourage you to return the following month. Each patient begins with a brief health screening, including a blood pressure reading. Then they receive a dental exam to determine the route of care needed. The patient will then be responsible to call and schedule their appointment with the dentist they were referred to.



**2022 Screening Dates**  
**Jan - No Screening**  
**Feb 5, 2022 Saturday**  
**Mar 5, 2022 Saturday**  
**Apr 2, 2022 Saturday**

**For more information about *Supply a Smile (SAS)*,  
go to: [supplyasmile.com](http://supplyasmile.com) or call 585-376-2242**

**We are truly thankful to the local dentists, hygienists, and volunteers for their kindness, generosity and donation of their time staffing SAS’s Dental Program. Thank you to Canandaigua Primary / Elementary school for their support in the use of the facility.**



# LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW

Our church library has MANY wonderful books, study guides and even the Bible on CD! We would like to highlight some of your favorite books from the library. Just send a short write up about the book to [sonya.brooks99@yahoo.com](mailto:sonya.brooks99@yahoo.com). It's up to you whether we include your name.

The following review is by Virginia Holroyd. Be sure to check out the book!



Author **Philip Yancey** is a devoted disciple of Jesus Christ and past editor-at-large of Christianity Today. He has received numerous awards including the Gold Medallion Award for six of his books.

In our church library, we have several books by Yancey, one being, *What's So Amazing about Grace*. In this book, which received the Christian Book of the Year Award in 1997, Yancey offers an insightful exploration of grace, that powerful force of God that we experience in love and forgiveness.

Yancey points to the Scriptures which reveal God's extravagant grace and he reminds us that there is nothing we can do to make God love us more, and nothing we can do to make God love us less. He is the God of "mercy and generosity who keeps finding ways to shatter the relentless laws of *ungrace*." He tells stories of how ungrace "plays like the background static of life for families, nations, and institutions," and how "ungrace does its work quietly and lethally, like a poisonous, undetectable gas."

"Grace is unfair, which is one of the hardest things about it," says Yancey. It seems unreasonable to expect a person to forgive the terrible things that someone has done to them just because there is an apology. "Grace, however, is not about fairness." He explains how grace, how forgiveness, seems to be an unnatural act, "achingly difficult...and that behind every act of forgiveness lies a wound of betrayal which does not easily fade away."

But from the very words of Jesus, we are to forgive others as God has forgiven us. "God has granted us a terrible agency: by denying forgiveness to others, we are in effect determining them unworthy of God's forgiveness, and thus so are we. In some mysterious way, divine forgiveness depends on us."

Why does God ask us to forgive? "Because that is what God is like." And when we genuinely forgive, we set a prisoner free and then discover that the very prisoner we set free is us!

Yancey further reminds us about the Christian principle that we are to "hate the sin, but love the sinner," which he acknowledges is easier to preach than to practice. But "if Christians could simply recover that practice, modeled so exquisitely by Jesus, we would go a long way toward fulfilling our calling as dispensers of God's grace."

Check out one of our three copies of this book to further understand additional great powers of forgiveness, such as how it can "loosen the stranglehold of guilt in the perpetrator" and thereby allow the possibility of transformation.

## The Words of Jesus



As we continue in the season of Epiphany this month, we will be following Luke's account of Jesus' life and ministry. Easter is later this year, so Lent does not begin until March. This month's sermons highlight Jesus' calling of the disciples, teaching them, and preparing for the Cross. You've probably heard these passages, but let me encourage you to come to these stories as if you have never heard them before. Jesus' words are surprising and challenging to those who first heard them. They stand in drastic contrast to the values and systems of his culture. And in many ways, they continue to challenge us today.

The Sermon on the Mount is often associated with Matthew's Gospel. But Luke records a shortened version. Jesus describes God's blessing in ways that don't match our expectations. The poor, the hungry, those who weep and are hated are often understood as cursed. Yet Jesus describes them as blessed. The Kingdom of God flips our expectations and calls us to submit ourselves to God.

On the final Sunday of February (and the final Sunday of Epiphany), we find Jesus and a selection of his disciples (Peter, John, and James) heading up a mountain. What they see and experience is beyond their imagination. They witness Jesus transfigured before them, talking with Moses and Elijah. Through this experience, the disciples witness Jesus' mission and see His identity confirmed. On the other side of the Cross, this dramatic encounter will begin to make sense.

The words and actions of Jesus reveal who He is and what He has come to do. As we study Luke, we can begin to understand what God was doing and how God continues to move in our midst. The first words of this Gospel show Luke's intent.

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. -- Luke 1:1-4 NIV

I pray that we might *know the certainty* of Jesus as we delve into these stories. May His words continue to form us and shape us into the people God has called us to be. I look forward to worshiping with you each week.

Blessings,

Wade

## Upcoming sermons

- February 06 - Follow (Luke 5:1-11)
- February 13 - Blessed by God (Luke 6:17-26)
- February 20 – Love Your Enemies (Luke 6:27-38) (Mark Slomski guest preaching)
- February 27 - The Glory of God (Luke 9:28-36)

