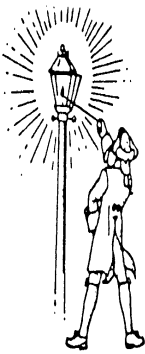


The United Church  
Presbyterian-American Baptist  
11 Gibson Street  
Canandaigua, NY 14424


Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage Paid  
Permit No. 26  
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Or Current Resident



# The Lamplighter

The United Church  
11 Gibson Street



Canandaigua, NY  
585-394-0503

Worship Service 8:45 and 11:00 am

March 2023

Rev. Dr. Wade Allen



- March 4 – Lasergeddon at Crosswinds
- March 6 – Trustees, 7 pm
- March 7 – Stewards, 7 pm
- March 12 – Exploring Membership Class, noon
- March 18 – Iron Sharpens Iron in Buffalo
- March 19 – EROI Organ Concert, 3 pm
- March 20 – Official Board, 7 pm
- March 24 – Red Cross Blood Drive, 1-6 pm
- March 26 – Easter Lily order forms due



**Table of Contents**

Church Family News/Stewards Info.....	Page 2
Pastor’s Page.....	Page 3
Mission News.....	Page 4-6
Children’s Christian Ed News .....	Page 7
Youth and Adult Ministry.....	Page 8-10
Treasurer and Fellowship.....	Page 11
Lily Order and Calendar.....	Inserted



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!*



**Eleanor Oskamp: March 19.** Eleanor is our oldest member and is turning **99 years old!**  
How wonderful it would be if she received **99 cards** from her church family! If you don’t have a church directory with her address, please call the office or email [virginia.holroyd@uccdga.org](mailto:virginia.holroyd@uccdga.org).  
Eleanor and her late husband, “Buzz,” joined our church in 1980 and were very involved in many ways over the years. They were married for 77 years!! and raised three daughters while they owned *Oliver’s*, a ‘world famous’ candy store in Batavia. They enjoyed living on Canandaigua Lake for over 20 years, celebrating holidays with their family. Eleanor loves to read and to hear from her loving grandchildren and great-grandkids.

REMEMBERING:

Our prayers and sympathy are with **James Mergenthaler**, whose sister, **Kelly Fish**, passed away last week. Please keep the Mergenthaler family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with the family of **Dr. Kenneth Carle**, one of our regular friends from Ferris Hills, who passed away January 27th. Please keep the Carle family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Kristy Aldrich**, whose aunt, **Donna Schoenacker**, passed away on January 31st. Please keep the Aldrich 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

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!

GREETERS of ALL AGES are needed for our Services in MARCH:

Greeters play an important role in extending hospitality in our church 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 any Steward (listed on the back of the Sunday Bulletin) or the **March Steward of the Month, Beth Smythe. We really appreciate your service!**



Treasurer's Financial Summary for January 2023

Description	Jan 2023 Amount	Budget
Income		
Total Giving	68,369.22	33,750.00
Other Income	1,214.33	4,619.47
Total Income	69,583.55	38,369.47
Spending		
Education and Ministry	3,190.44	2,574.18
Operating	2,753.24	5,475.02
Personnel & Related	33,713.18	30,286.14
Total Expenses	39,656.86	38,335.34
Net Income Year to Date	29,926.69	34.13

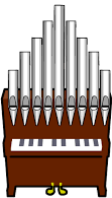
(budget includes transfer from surplus of \$3,159.21)

Several donors paid their entire pledge for 2023 in January. This makes our financial situation look really good right now but it means there will likely be less cash flowing in in future months.

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.



Organ Concert

Please join us on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm for an EROI (Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative) Concert! A free-will offering will be received, which goes to the performing Eastman students for their European study travels.

Stampin Up

The March **Stampin’ Up** class is scheduled for **March 18th** from 8:45-11:30 in the Fellowship Room. We will make the 4 cards pictured plus an Easter card. Please call or email Sharon Meyer (585-924-8792 or [shargmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:shargmeyer@gmail.com)) to sign up by **March 12th**.



# ON MINISTRY LIFE...

## Reflections

This past month, I had the opportunity to eat lunch with other pastors in the Canandaigua area (Thanks, Wade, for inviting me!). I greatly appreciated meeting/reconnecting with these pastors, and enjoyed listening to their pastoral experiences. We closed our time with praying for one another – this time for the person sitting to our right. We are blessed with humble, competent and godly pastors! I look forward to attending this monthly gathering in the future.

At home, we are well acquainted with our Winter routine. Keeping the wood fire burning is the daily chore I enjoy the most... dishes the least. During this cold season, it's guaranteed that our fleece blankets are thrown on the couch, ready for frequent use. Getting Carter outside most days is our goal—good for all of us to breath in the crisp air. A sunny day is our treat. My Sabbath (Thursday), typically has included a family activity in the late morning, and home projects in the afternoon. The rest of it is hopefully slower-paced than the rest of the week. How do you spend your Sabbath?

## Learnings

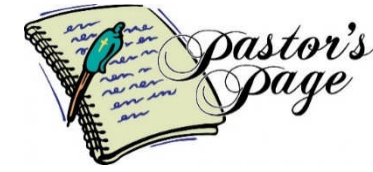
As part of my orientation into pastoral work, I am reading a book titled “*Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity*”. The author speaks of three important pastoral acts: **Prayer**, **Scripture Reading**, and **Spiritual Direction**. In short, the author argues about the importance of getting these “angles” correct on the triangle (depicted below), otherwise the shape (triangle) breaks apart. When the angles aren’t correct, the “lines” (i.e. pastoral work that most people see, namely Preaching, Teaching, and Administrative work) do not connect.

**Prayer** – I appreciate the author’s emphasis on Sabbath keeping. This weekly observation – as God has designed – provides the time and space to enter into the depths of prayer.

**Scripture** – The author reminds us to approach the Bible, not as a product to be consumed, but a message to be heard. The message comes from some “One”, not some “thing”. We know this “One” as our LORD, and He calls us into a living relationship with Him. It is in this relationship, with opened ears, that we *hear* God’s message in the Bible.

**Spiritual Direction** – As Christians, we can bless one another by directing our attention to God through the ordinary events of life. While spiritual direction certainly includes the formal and planned, it also manifests itself in the everyday events of life. We can direct each other’s attention toward God in simple ways, such as enjoying a cup of coffee together or sharing a brief word of encouragement after service.

Peace,  
Mark Slomski



## Jesus Encounters

The Gospels are full of people who encountered Jesus. Each story helps us understand God. In March, we will join four people who each meet Jesus differently. Each story teaches us about Jesus' life and mission. Putting these four people in the room together would show dramatic contrasts.

The first person is a religious leader. The Gospel writers often highlight the hypocrisy and ill intentions of this group. Yet this spiritual leader, Nicodemus, is authentically seeking the truth. He comes to Jesus in the darkness of night and is likely surprised to hear Jesus' instruction about a new birth.

The second encounter also catches us off guard. Jesus is having a conversation with a Samaritan woman. It was scandalous for a Jewish Rabbi to have a private conversation with a woman, much less a Samaritan woman. But Jesus is direct and bold in this conversation. In the end, this woman shares her experience with her people causing many to believe.

A third encounter involves a man born blind. When Jesus restores his sight, the man's parents and the religious leaders get involved. Jesus uses this encounter to teach us about spiritual blindness.

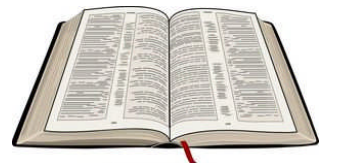
The fourth encounter is the most dramatic. It involves one of Jesus' close friends who has died. When Jesus calls him from his tomb, he demonstrates his power over death.

Please join our Sunday services each week as we walk through these stories. These stories about Jesus as He makes His way to the Cross remind us that His mission was one of salvation and redemption. May we, like those who encountered Jesus in these stories, be changed as we hear them.

Wade

## March Worship Schedule and Readings

- March 05 - Nicodemus (John 3:1-17)  
Additional Readings: Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, Genesis 12:1-4a
- March 12 - Living Water (John 4:5-42)  
Additional Readings: Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11, Exodus 17:1-7
- March 19 - Man Born Blind (John 9:1-41)  
Additional Readings: Psalm 23, Ephesians 5:8-14, 1 Samuel 16:1-13
- March 26 - Raised (John 11:1-45)  
Additional Readings: Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, Ezekiel 37:1-14



## EASTER LILY ORDERS:



The **Easter Lily order form** is included in this Lamplighter. Forms will also be available in the Welcome Center. **ORDERS are DUE by: Sun., March 26<sup>th</sup> COST: \$12/plant**

You may order your plant in memory of loved ones or in honor of special people in your lives.

The lilies will adorn our Sanctuary for Easter Sunday and you may take your plant(s) home right after the Easter Services. *Thanks so much for your orders!*





**Family Promise Update**

The Family Promise apartment that The United Church ‘adopted’ turned over in early January. Four members of our Family Promise team painted, cleaned, hung pictures and generally readied the apartment for the next family. A deep clean had been done before we were called in. The new residents are a single mother with three children, 5, 7 and 8. They moved in January 30<sup>th</sup> from another Family Promise apartment. This was because the mother found a job in Canandaigua and with no transportation needed to be able to walk to work. There may be an opportunity to provide assistance to the family during their stay in the apartment – stay tuned!

Family Promise now has eight apartments in Ontario County, 4 in Canandaigua, 3 in Geneva and 1 in East Bloomfield. They moved to this model (from the families sleeping at different churches each week) during the pandemic and much of the monies for the apartment rent comes from covid grants which will be ending over the next 1-2 years. They are looking at a static site model in which they would have one location that would contain the offices and training rooms as well as rooms for the families with a central kitchen and living areas. Family Promise is currently looking at sites for this new model.

**Called to Care Canandaigua ~ Refugee Resettlement in our Community**

By the time you read this article, **our 3<sup>rd</sup> refugee family**, this time a couple from Haiti, will have arrived in the U.S. and soon will move into our 3<sup>rd</sup> rental. Our teams are busy cleaning and furnishing the apartment with donations promised from so many caring individuals in our community. *Please keep this couple in your prayers as they transition to a new country and community.*

We've been active in welcoming our first and second Ukrainian families, working with them to obtain health care, driver's licenses, and settle into employment and English classes. Such big changes for these dear people. *Please keep them in your prayers as they settle in and look for jobs and a new life.*

Our **“Chasin’ the Blues” Fundraiser event** on February 11 featured local musicians and comedians who performed to a sold-out crowd at Crosswinds Wesleyan Church. Guests were treated to a wonderful evening of laughs, love and luscious savories and desserts. And our organization received over \$13,000 from ticket sales and generous donors. *Praise be to God and thank you to all who contributed!*

*“I was a stranger and you invited me in.” Matthew 25:35b*

**Church World Service kits**

During the month of March we will be collecting supplies needed to complete **school kits for CWS**. Starting a new school year is exciting but for children who don't have school supplies, it can also be terrifying. That's where our kits- and our compassion—come in. Plus, the fabric bag we pack each kit in is a great keepsake that kids can carry all year long. There will be a box in the Welcoming 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. There are also directions for fabric bags for those wishing to do some sewing.

- 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
- We do not expect everyone to make fabric bags but here is information for them. One 12”x14” to 14”x17” finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with handles. Solid color or kid-friendly fabric.



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.

# ADULT MINISTRY

## Reflections

I (Mark Slomski) had the recent opportunity to join the **Parenting Coffee Hour** group to discuss the topic of baptism, including conversation around infant and believer's baptism. After getting settled in and catching up with one another for a few minutes, we reviewed some of the Scriptures that are commonly referred to when discussing the topic. We also pondered the viewpoints of our faith ancestors throughout the last 2,000 years. We enjoyed thoughtful discussion and appreciated the various bits of wisdom we gleaned from one another. This group has identified a list of other topics to discuss in future gatherings. Do you appreciate a relaxed atmosphere, coffee & snacks, a time to catch up with others, and opportunity to discuss interesting topics? If so, this class may be for you! **Join us in the Fellowship Room, Sunday mornings, at 9:45 AM.**

During our most recent **Testimony Saturday**, we had the privilege of hearing from our very own Gabriel Correia de Souza! Gabriel shared about his upbringing, his faith in Christ, how the Lord has moved in his life, and Scriptural passages that have inspired him. Beforehand, we enjoyed delicious food (thank you Wanda, Ed, and Jeanie!), and worshipped the Lord together (facilitated by Mike O'Brien). **Testimony Saturday occurs quarterly**, so be on the lookout for our next event!



*Gabriel Correia de Souza*

## Learnings

Our **Bible study on the book of John** has wrapped up. Thank you to Steve Simpson & Gail Benjamin for their facilitation of the class! We have now moved onto the **Book of Psalms**. This will include a DVD series and a handbook. All adults are invited to join us as we spend 8 weeks together, discovering the Lord's Scriptures. **Join us in the downstairs Dining Hall, Sunday mornings, at 9:45 AM.**

Our **Young Adults** continue to gather **every Saturday at 11:00 AM** for food, fellowship and Bible Study. Currently the group is learning about the **Book of Job**. We are reading through our Scriptures verse by verse, discussing the contents of the story, and reflecting how to live out God's message for us.

## Upcoming Events

**Iron Sharpens Iron** – Men's Conference – March 18 – Buffalo, NY – Sign up in the church hallway!



# YOUTH MINISTRY

## Reflections

The first fundraising activity of the calendar year was the **2023 Potato Bar**. We raised over \$600 dollars, which will go towards our Work Camp trip in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. **Thank you to all who donated to this ministry!**

## Learnings

**The Cause** group has been engaging with the contents of the book pictured on the right. At the time of this writing, we have discussed the 3 adjectives identified as descriptors of this generation of teenagers: Anxious, Adaptive, and Diverse.

After getting our student’s perspectives on these adjectives, we turn our attention toward the Scriptures. We discover what the Lord has to say about these descriptions, and then we reflect together about our discovery. Finally, we look to apply our learnings to our daily lives, both individually, and as a group.

Moving into the next few months, we will continue with this book as our diving board into faith discussions and Scriptural discovery.

Pray for our students!



## 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** – In Process (*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

**Can & Bottle Returns** – Staples Redemption Center – *Donate to “The United Church of Canandaigua”*



~~~~~  
**Reflections on a Mission Trip to Mexico...** Ken Allen and I, along with our new LWW Network Coordinator, Eigner Juarez, are in the middle of our week of mission “work” in Quintana Roo, Mexico. Sometimes a trip is a true work trip with volunteers working side by side in construction of a building...a new church, additional classrooms, a water plant, a health clinic or other. Sometimes a trip is to provide for life saving needs to a community...clean water, improved health or other. Sometimes it is simply to renew mission relationships with partners and to support them in their ministries. Living Waters for the World encourages the fostering of mission relationships. A community, looking for a way to bring the benefits of clean water at an affordable price to their community reaches out looking for a partner. That partner becomes the “initiating partner” and the community becomes the “operating partner.” They partner together to bring about the construction of a building and the installation of a water purification system that will provide clean, safe drinking water and be a sustainable ministry and resource to a community.

That is how our United Church is doing the “work” of mission in three communities in Mexico: Cedralito, Limones and Tabi. We have a Covenant partnership through Living Waters for the World with Cedralito and Limones. Our mission committee agreed to take over this relationship when Park Presbyterian Church no longer could maintain it. And although Newark Rotary is the Covenant partner with Tabi we are also closely linked to that installation. And of course years back the United Church had a mission partnership with Emmanuel Church in Bacalar.

So, this February we are here on an annual trip, which has been happening since 2012, to visit our mission partners in Cedralito and Limones and now our new sisters and brother of faith in Tabi, providing them with certificates honoring their ministry in their community. It is a privilege and a joy to make this trip every year. The Cedralito plant at Monte Horeb Church, in a community of about 400, is still providing water, about 80 garrafones (5 gallon water jugs) a week, with four operators and plant workers and a few others on the water committee. It is an older plant and system parts have had to be replaced in the recent years at great cost. Now, with the declining church membership, we heard that perhaps the small mission church will be closed which could lead to the closure of the plant. That is great concern to the workers and to us and will be for Living Waters for the World as well. More discussion will hopefully find agreeable solutions.

In Limones, a town of about 5,000, quite the opposite. They are in their fifth year of providing clean water and have the same vibrant and dynamic water committee and an open and welcoming water plant “Planta Itzae” on the grounds of their Misión Sinai Church. They are producing around 1,500 garrafones a week with young women as workers and water delivery people. They are paid a stipend for their service and hard work and all expressed joy in this opportunity the plant offers them. In our talks with the water committee we learned much about the success of their plant which might be shared with the water committee in Tabi as they struggle to find sustainability in their first year. Ken presented a fifth year certificate and we brought a long overdue sign for their building.

The anticipated health education in each of these communities stopped during Covid days and has not been continuing since.

We have spent two full days in Tabi with a goal to serve as facilitator/mediator in bringing the water committee, the Consistorio of the Bet-El Church, and the educators together around the table to find ways to unite in working together in a shared ministry that values the water plant as the benefit and resource it is for all in the community. We left Tabi on Thursday with high hopes that goal has been realized. In long meetings at the “house on the corner” grievances were shared, disagreements aired, apologies



offered, and hopes to begin a new year working in mutual partnership...the Water Committee, the church Consistorio (Session), and Newark Rotary...to the glory of God and the benefit of the Tabi community were expressed. At a final meeting with only the Water Committee the topics of communication, sustainability and ongoing health education were openly discussed and they received well our thoughts and suggestions. A group what's app has already been created to promote open communication between all three partners and they are beginning to think of promotional ideas to open the plant more to the community for water sales. They have also planned meetings with the educators to coordinate the ongoing community education for the benefit of the water ministry. Monthly reports will come to us and the church and Aguas Vivas will receive reports every three months. Communication with the church will be offered at their monthly meetings. I believe, with God's help, we have laid a good foundation for the 1st year sustainability visit when the Rotary group will return this April.

Today we move on to attend the Living Waters for the World annual network conference in Tekax which gathers over 200 plant operators, administrators and educators from all over the Yucatán. Ken and I will have an opportunity to reunite with LWW volunteers we haven't seen in a while and to help with the conference activities.  
Joyfully reported... Linda Werts



We are thankful for the safe return of the AMOS Mission Team to Nicaragua, including **Don Rensberger, Lynn Bernard and Mike Walker**. Watch the bulletins and the next Lamplighter for details from the trip.

**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.  
To start the process, please attend a dental screening the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of March, 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](mailto:supplyasmile@gmail.com).

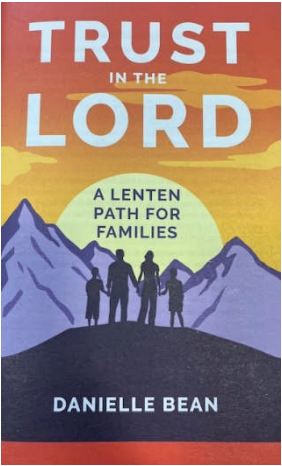
# CHILDREN’S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

## What’s happened...

Our **Youth Club** numbers have grown. We invited friends to Youth Club in late January and now we have **49 children** enrolled in Youth Club. Also, on February 15, the Youth Club children decorated and filled **44 Birthday Bags**. These bags are given to families in need who use our local food pantries and have a person who is celebrating a birthday. **Thank you to all who donated to this ministry!**

## What’s happening...

**Lent** begins on **Ash Wednesday**, which is **February 22** this year. All children and youth who attend Sunday School and Youth Club were given age-appropriate Lent devotionals to use during this season.  
It is our hope that providing Lent devotionals to children and youth will provide them an opportunity to grow closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus. It is also a special time that families can engage in **faith conversations at home**. Parents are encouraged to set aside daily time to use the Lent devotionals together. What time will work best for you? Breakfast, dinner, bedtime, or a different time of day? Making it part of your daily routine will help ensure it becomes a Lenten habit. ☺  
**Pray for our families** as they engage in faith conversations together through this Lenten season!



## Upcoming Events

- March 12** – Rice Bowls distributed for children/youth Lenten offering
- March 15** – Youth Club kids go ice skating!
- March 26** – School Teacher Appreciation Sunday during 11am service, cookie and punch reception to follow
- March 29** – Journey to Easter for Youth Club kids
- March 31** – Church family bowling night at Roseland, 6-8pm – includes pizza, soda, and bowling!
- 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 16** – Communicants class may join and/or be baptized if they choose
- April 19** – Youth Club musical at 6pm
- April 23** – Youth Club musical during Sunday school hour
- April 26** – Last Youth Club; pizza dinner and celebration with parents
- April 30** – Intergenerational Sunday School class in downstairs dining room



**Save the Dates**  
**July 10-14** – **Stellar VBS, 9am -12noon**, for kids ages 4-years-old through those who completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade