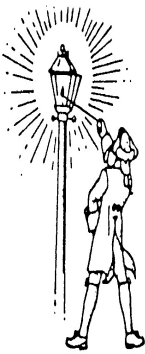


The United Church  
Presbyterian-American Baptist  
11 Gibson Street  
Canandaigua, NY 14424


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Or Current Resident



# The Lamplighter

The United Church  
11 Gibson Street



Canandaigua, NY  
585-394-0503

Worship Service, 8:45 and 11:00 am

November 2023

Rev. Dr. Wade Allen



- Nov 2 – Trustees, 7 pm
- Nov 4 – Adult Retreat at LeTourneau, 9am-3pm
- Nov 5 – Daylight Savings Time ends, Fall Back an hour!
- Nov 7 – Stewards, 7 pm
- Nov 10 – Veteran’s Day, office closed
- Nov 11 – Pipe Dreams Live! Organ concert, 7:30pm
- Nov 12 – Special Congregational Meeting, noon
- Nov 18 – Stampin’ Up, 9am-12
- Nov 18 – CPR/AED class, 9am-1pm
- Nov 19 – Stewardship goal date
- Nov 19 – Angel Tree tags available
- Nov 23 – Thanksgiving, office closed
- Nov 27 – Decorate sanctuary for Christmas, 6-8pm



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### SPECIAL MEMBER UPDATES:

Special Members are those in their 90s, and/or who are homebound, in nursing homes, or need temporary special care. **They really appreciate cards from their church family!!**



### SPECIAL MEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

**Marilynn Frost: Nov. 10**, age 92. Marilynn joined the church in December 1977. She resides at The Terrace Assisted Living Community in Newark. During her active years at our church, Marilynn served in a variety of ways including the Choir for many years, Circle 7, a Small Group Bible Study, Knitting/Prayer Shawl Group, and VBS. Marilynn was a high school English teacher at the Midlakes School District for her entire teaching career and some of her students are members of our church who have kids and grandkids of their own!

**Ruth Bullock: Nov. 18**, age 92. Ruth joined the church in April 1943; that's 80 years ago!! And she still enjoys attending Sunday Services with her family, with the 5<sup>th</sup> generation now growing up in our church family. Ruth grew up on the Day family dairy farm in Canandaigua, where she was one of five siblings. She really enjoys telling stories about family fun on the farm with the cows, chickens and horses. Ruth has four children and several grandchildren and great-grandkids. You may know some of them: Nancy Abdallah, Lauren Slomksi, & Carter!

**David Crowe: Nov. 29**, age 82. David joined the church in February 2009, soon after marrying his wife, Kathie Meredith, whose birthday just happens to be one week before Dave's, on the 22<sup>nd</sup>!! David currently resides at The Clifton Springs Hospital Nursing Care Center where he enjoys watching sports on TV especially from his alma mater, Purdue University! Dave also looks forward to weekly massages at the Clifton Springs Hospital Spa. Before his stroke in 2016, David and Kathie enjoyed travelling, especially to Alaska, Italy, Hawaii, and across the country. David was a Science and Phys Ed teacher for many years in Indiana and he also had his own auto parts store. Dave has three sons and four grandkids.

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### REMEMBERING:

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Larry Hood**, whose daughter, **Cynthia Chittenden**, passed away on September 22nd. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Robin Sheppard**, whose mother, **Jeannette Cooney**, passed away on September 29th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Dean Williamson**, whose brother, **Larry Williamson**, passed away on September 30th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

### CELEBRATING:

We joyfully celebrate the birth of **Francesca Mylla Occil**, new daughter of **Mirlande and Tico Occil**. She was born on September 22, and joins big brother, Manoe. Please keep the family in your prayers during this special time.

We joyfully celebrate the birth of **Thomas Michael Emmal**, born on October 14th. His parents are **Brandon and Chelsea Emmal**, and his grandparents are **John and Jennifer Eveleigh**. Please keep the family in your prayers during this special time.

Congratulations to **Ryan Gardner**, who married **Becky Gravenstede** in a small ceremony in Bergen, NY on September 30th. The couple is living in Irondequoit, NY. Please keep the family in your prayers during this joyful time.

Congratulations to **Brooke and Jared Merenuk**, who celebrated their wedding on September 30th. **Mary Beth and Bill Fortunato** are the bride's parents. Please keep the family in your prayers during this joyful time.

Congratulations to **Brooke and Dakota Hance**, who were married on October 6th. Brooke's proud parents are **Bruce and Christina Hartpence**. Please keep the new family in your prayers during this joyful time.

Congratulations to **Tori and Matthew Sullivan**, who were married on October 6. Tori Wilson Sullivan grew up in our church family, attending Youth Club and The Cause. Please keep the newlyweds in your prayers during this joyful time.

## Fellowship Events

### Stampin' Up!

The next Stampin' Up class is scheduled for November 18th from 9 - 12. We will be making the cards pictured below!

If you have any questions or are interested in signing up by November 12th, contact Sharon Meyer.





## Parenting Coffee Hour – Holiday Edition

Returns for three Sundays



- ★ November 26 – Helping our kids (and us) stay focused on Christ during Advent
- ★ December 3 – Saying “no” to all the extras during the holidays
- ★ December 10 – Keeping our sanity during the holidays



Come enjoy coffee, snacks, and time to relax with other parents.

Meet in the Fellowship Room from 9:45-10:45

## Have you tried the new Church Center app?

You can find it wherever you usually get apps on your smartphone or tablet. It looks like this:

Or you can follow this link: <http://uccdga.churchcenter.com/>

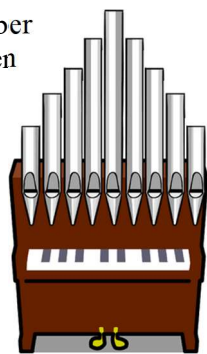
### Things you can do on the Church Center app:

- Look up contact info for church friends in the directory (opt in)
- Update your own info when it changes
- Watch livestreams when you're unable to make it for Sunday worship
- Register for events or classes
- Check on the status of your giving/pledging or make online payments
- Check the church calendar for events
- Look at Sunday bulletins or Lamplighters (monthly newsletters)
- Track the various committees or groups you participate in
- And more!

If you need help getting this set up, stop by the office and Carolyn would be glad to help you!



**Veteran's Day** – In addition to expressing our appreciation to those who serve and have served, November 11<sup>th</sup> is also your opportunity to participate in *Pipedreams Live! Rochester*. This is a free event that is open to the public. There will be a “Meet and Greet” from 6:00-7:00 before the program begins at 7:30pm. Nationally syndicated radio host Michael Barone will host Pipedreams from the Canandaigua United Church. Students and faculty from our own Eastman School of Music will demonstrate the instrument. Michael provides verbal program notes regarding the mechanism and sound-palette, converses with players and composers and invites audience questions. Formality is replaced by friendly good nature, flavorful repartee, and exciting musical revelations. Other instruments will be featured Friday and Sunday; details about the 3-day event can be found at [www.wxixclassical.org/wxxi-events](http://www.wxixclassical.org/wxxi-events).



**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 invite you to help DECORATE the CHURCH for CHRISTMAS!

On **Monday, Nov. 27**, beginning at **6:00pm**, we'll decorate the Sanctuary so it's adorned for the first Sunday of Advent, which is December 3rd. This will be the second year with our new Christmas tree that is so much easier to assemble!

It takes many hands from our church family to *hang all the greens*, so please join us in the Sanctuary anytime between **6:00-8:00pm**. We'll assemble the tree, set up the crèche, arrange the candles in the Sanctuary windows, and hang wreaths. **Christmas treats provided!**



## POINSETTIA ORDERS

Enjoy the beautiful colors of the Christmas season with a poinsettia plant! The order forms are due by **Sunday, December 3rd**. Please note if the plant(s) are being named in memory of, or in honor of your loved ones or friends. Order forms are in the Welcome Center and are included in this Lamplighter. Call the Office if you need a form mailed to you.



**Please place your order form in an Offering Plate or in the Office, or mail to the Church Office at 11 Gibson St., Cdga, 14424. Checks payable to: The United Church Stewards; \$11/plant.** The plants will be delivered in mid-December to decorate the church and you may take them with you after the 11:00am Service on 12/24, or the Christmas Eve 7:00pm Service.

## THE STEWARDS ASSISTANCE FUND:

The loose money (coins and cash) placed in the **Offering Plates** on **Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>** (Communion Sunday) will be deposited to the **Stewards Assistance Fund**. We take this collection only six times per year, however you may write a check to *The United Church*, with a note: “Stewards Fund” and give it to the church *anytime!*

Your donations go directly to 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, surgeries, and other medical expenses. The recipients of these funds are very, very appreciative!!

*Thank you for helping your church family!*

## GREETERS of ALL AGES needed for BOTH SERVICES in NOVEMBER:

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 offerings 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 contact the November Steward of the Month, **Martha Ashley** or call the Office. *We really appreciate your service!*





**Love**

Love is a misunderstood word in our world today. We see signs and billboards urging us to love. However, these promotions may carry a different understanding of love that is central in Scripture. In the Greek world, there were three words for love (phileo, eros, and agape). Phileo describes the brotherly, friendship sort of love. The city of Philadelphia is known as the city of brotherly love. Eros is about romantic love. But agape love is quite different. It is the sort of love John describes,

(1 John 4:7-9 NIV) Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

Agape love is sacrificial love. It has nothing to do with romance. It is the sort of love that God calls us to exhibit.

During November, we will spend three weeks in 1 Corinthians 13. I plan to explore the definition of authentic agape love. Please join us as we explore this familiar passage together.

*Wade*

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## Worship Schedule and Readings

- November 05 - The Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27-31)  
Additional Readings: Ephesians 4:1-7, 1 Peter 4:10-11
- November 12 - Motivation Matters (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)  
Additional Readings: Matthew 6:1-6, 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
- November 19 - Love Is, Is Not (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)  
Additional Readings: Psalm 139:1-12, 1 John 4:7-21
- November 26 - Love Remains (1 Corinthians 13:8-13)  
Additional Readings: John 13:1-9, 34, Revelation 7:9-17



The QR code to the right will also take you to the streaming page



**PODCAST**

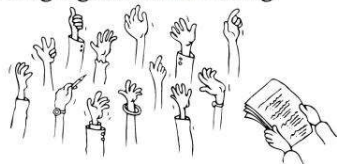
### You can now listen to sermons (old and new!) as podcasts!

You can reach them through our website here: <http://uccdga.org/podcast>  
Or wherever you usually listen (Spotify, Apple Podcasts, etc.) just search for the United Church of Canandaigua channel.

These podcasts are audio only of just the sermon portion of the service, perfect to listen to on your commute (most are 15-20 minutes long). We are still working on getting all of the older ones loaded, they go back to 2012!

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### Special Congregational Meeting



A **Special Congregational Meeting** of the United Church will be held after the 11:00 service, in the sanctuary, on **Sunday, November 12, 2023**. The purpose of the meeting is to approve changes to the Covenant of Union regarding the structure of the Official Board. (see details on page 5)

# PASTORAL MINISTRY

Pastorally, significant time and effort has been given in promoting careful navigation through polarizing topics. Early on in this program year, we were blessed with Pastor Wally Fleming's Sunday School class. He spoke on cultivating open hearts to those around us, and listed the following actions: *Show Respect, Display Humility, Seek to Listen, Seek to Learn, Cultivate a Sense of Awe*.

We used these points while walking through an 8-week course titled "Theology of Sex". This class provided an opportunity for group discussion on a sensitive topic, that also serves as important ground work for deeper, more sensitive conversations around human sexuality.

We also planned a full retreat day with Rev. Dr. Doug Cullum, who expands on the topic of cultivating a posture of dialogue, and especially focuses on how churches can pivot from an adversarial posture to a missional posture. This approach is especially important as churches navigate through polarizing topics.

During this work, we come across a number of helpful resources. I'd like to share a snippet written by John Newton, an Anglican priest from the 18<sup>th</sup> century (he is well-known for writing the famous hymn: *Amazing Grace*):

*"As to your opponents, I wish that before you set pen to paper against them, and during the whole time you are preparing your answer, you may commend them by earnest prayer to the Lord's teaching and blessing. This practice will have a direct tendency to conciliate your heart to love and pity them; and such a disposition will have a good influence upon every page you write. If you account them a believer, though greatly mistaken in the subject of debate between you, the words of David to Joab concerning Absalom, are very applicable: "Deal gently with him for my sake." The Lord loves them and bears with them; therefore you must not despise him, or treat them harshly. The Lord bears with you likewise, and expects that you should show tenderness to others, from a sense of the much forgiveness you need yourself. In a little while you will meet in heaven; they will then be dearer to you than the nearest friend you have upon earth is to you now. Anticipate that period in your thoughts; and though you may find it necessary to oppose their errors, view them personally as a kindred soul, with whom you are to be happy in Christ forever...If our zeal is embittered by expressions of anger, invective, or scorn, we may think we are doing service of the cause of truth, when in reality we shall only bring it into discredit...There is a principle of self, which disposes us to despise those who differ from us; and we are often under its influence, when we think we are only showing a becoming zeal in the cause of God... If you can be content with showing your wit, and gaining the laugh on your side, you have an easy task; but I hope you have a far nobler aim, and that, sensible of the solemn importance of gospel truths, and the compassion due to the souls of people."*

– John Newton, "On Controversy"

I leave you with a well-worded statement by Beth Felker Jones, the facilitator of the Theology of Sex course we have used: *In our world of polarized, niche-marketed, us vs. them, cancel culture chaos, there may be little that matters more than the ability to pay loving attention to those with whom we disagree.*



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# THEOLOGY & BIBLE

During my seminary class, I enjoyed a recent Bible Study assignment. We were asked to study the **Transfiguration**, and do so by comparing the accounts in each of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). We were asked to use color-specific highlights to capture similarities/differences between these three.

I invite you to join in, and engage in conversation with others about it! For your convenience, I’ve pasted the three accounts in the table below. Here are a few questions to consider: *Which accounts are most similar (and least similar)? What is unique in each account? Were these writings completely independent of one another, or could one have referenced another (or both)? What questions do you have after reading?*

Mark 9:2-10	Matthew 17:1-9	Luke 9:28-36
<p><sup>2</sup> Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup> and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one<sup>[a]</sup> on earth could brighten them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.</p> <p><sup>5</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup> He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup> Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved;<sup>[b]</sup> listen to him!” <sup>8</sup> Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.</p> <p><sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. <sup>10</sup> So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.</p>	<p>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup> And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. <sup>3</sup> Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.</p> <p><sup>4</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I<sup>[a]</sup> will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved;<sup>[b]</sup> with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” <sup>6</sup> When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” <sup>8</sup> And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.</p> <p><sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”</p>	<p><sup>28</sup> Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. <sup>30</sup> Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him.</p> <p><sup>31</sup> They appeared in glory and were speaking about his exodus, which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup> Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep, but as they awoke they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.</p> <p><sup>33</sup> Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah,” not realizing what he was saying. <sup>34</sup> While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup> Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen;<sup>[b]</sup> listen to him!” <sup>36</sup> When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.</p>



## Official Board Restructuring

Three years ago this fall, we began serious conversations with the Pastoral Search Committee at The United Church. Over the next few months, God united us as pastor and congregation. For the first few years, my posture has been one of learning, asking questions, and seeking to understand the culture and DNA of this long-standing body of believers. With the addition of new staff, new members, and an ever-changing culture, the leaders have been working to understand how God might be calling us to adjust to new models of ministry. This year, the Official Board has been working to adapt its structure to more actively facilitate all areas of ministry and to represent the congregation's broader involvement in church ministries. While this will be an ongoing endeavor, we are planning for several changes to the Official Board architecture beginning in 2024.

### Ministry Areas

As new members join the Board, they will come onto it in a specific role. Six ministry areas encompass the work of our congregation. Board members cannot (or would they be able to) take full responsibility for all aspects of each ministry area. Committees, teams, and other boards will strive to carry out the work of each ministry area. The role of a Board member (in each area) is to coordinate, facilitate, and represent the ministries that fall under their ministry area. The six areas include Music Ministry, Family Ministry, Church Life, Missions, Care Ministry, and Operations.

### Functional Teams

In addition to the ministry areas, functional teams will take on specific ministry work. An elected Board member will represent each functional team. In the same way as ministry leaders, functional team Board members will work with committees or teams to facilitate the ministry tasks. The three teams include Communications, Security/Technology, and Food. The work of each functional team will span across all ministry areas.

### Smaller Board

The Official Board will include six ministry representatives and three functional team representatives. In addition, three at-large members of the Board will serve to work across all areas. In the first year, the at-large members will assist the functional team representatives to help form and facilitate functional teams.

If you are doing the math, you might have already recognized that this new structure requires only 12 positions. Our Covenant Union currently calls for 18 members and two youth members. (We would maintain the two youth positions who serve a one-year term.)

In consultation with other churches and denominational agencies, our Official Board seems unusually large. Many churches with larger memberships have significantly smaller boards. The size of our board is likely a result of two churches coming together. A smaller, focused board should provide the opportunity to develop church leaders who can facilitate the church's ministries while empowering the congregation to carry out the ministries.

### Congregational Meetings

To move into this new model, the congregation will need to alter the Covenant Union. In Section V (Governing Bodies), Paragraph B (Official Board), the congregation must approve the number 18 to be changed to 12. Also, we will need to change "A quorum shall be 11 members" to "A quorum shall be seven members," which is nearly the same percentage as before.

As we consider these changes, we will hold two congregational meetings. An informational meeting after the late service in the dining room on Sunday, November 5, will provide an opportunity for questions and discussion. The following Sunday, November 12, the congregation will vote on the proposed changes following the late worship service in the sanctuary.

Changes in the Official Board structure are significant. Much prayer, conversation, and discernment have been a part of the process. We will continue to discern these changes as a congregation as we gather on November 5 and 12.

Financial Items

Treasurer's Financial Summary for Sept 2023		
Description	Jan-Sept 2023 Actual	9 month Budget
Income		
Total Giving	327,482.49	308,625.00
Other Income	12,777.95	36,700.25
Total Income	340,260.44	345,325.25
(budget includes transfer from surplus of \$28,432.94)		
Spending		
Education and Ministry	22,176.94	27,000.00
Operating	50,518.07	46,162.50
Personnel & Related	264,817.91	272,162.75
Total Expenses	337,512.92	345,325.25
Net Income Year to Date	2,747.52	0.00

From January through September, we have taken in \$2,747.52 more than we have spent. We are still doing better than anticipated. We have spent \$205,072.44 on capital projects including the downstairs renovation, drinking fountains, concrete repair, gutter replacement and new exit doors. This funding comes from a separate account and is not included above. Thank you for your faithful giving!

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.



**Scammers are targeting church members**, usually pretending to be Pastor Wade and asking you to go buy gift cards. **Please don't fall for this.** If in doubt, do not respond in any way. Call or email the church office or Wade's own number in the directory.

**Even outside of church** ... if anyone claiming to be *anyone* asks you to go buy gift cards as a form of payment, or asks you to wire money, or pays you with a "too big" check and asks for a refund of the excess ... it is likely they are trying to steal from you. **Please ask a trusted friend or the authorities if they think the situation stinks!** Microsoft tech help will NEVER contact you to tell you that you have a problem. Do not give them access to your computer or any passwords or pins. They are thieves and will remotely steal from you while telling you they are helping you. The more urgent they seem, the more likely they are bad.



ADULT ED MINISTRY  
Reflections & Learnings

The **Adult Education Sunday School Hour** continues! Back on September 24, we began an extended series titled Theology of Sex. This class will continue until mid-November. Thank you to all who have participated in this important and sensitive conversation! For the Advent season, we return to our regular program options of a Bible study (advent-themed), the Parenting Coffee Hour, and the Young Adult group.

Our **Young Adult** lunch continues on Sundays, 12:00 PM – 12:50 PM, after service (and before football!). If you have an interest in providing (and/or hosting) a meal for this special group, please contact Mark Slomski.

Our **Corporate Prayer Initiative** continues! With the aim in providing an opportunity for everyone to attend without missing Sunday service, we are offering two sessions: 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM. The activity is quite simple: *come, pray, and leave!* It is a wonderful time for us to pray to God, praise God and asking for guidance (and other things!).

Depending on when you receive or read this article, the **Adult Education Retreat** is either just around the corner, or just recently completed (Saturday, November 4 at LeTourneau Christian Center)! At the time of this writing, we are north of 50 registered attendees. We are blessed to have President Emeritus of Northeastern Seminary, Rev. Dr. Douglas Cullum, as our facilitator for the day. We will be taking time to learn about a range of Christian perspectives on polarizing issues, understand our social context and the need for cultivating a posture of dialogue, and growing further into a missional posture in our ministry. We believe this conversation is important enough that we are offering no cost for this event.

A small group of young adults are preparing for their trip to the **2024 Passion Conference** in Atlanta, Georgia. Please pray for this group as they seek to keep their schedules available to attend this trip!

Looking Forward

- Sunday School Hour** – Weekly 9:45 AM – 10:45 AM
- Young Adult Lunch** – Weekly 12:00 PM – 12:50 PM
- Men's Breakfast** – Wednesday's @ 7:00 AM
- Adult Education Retreat** – November 4 (Letourneau Christian Center)
- Young Adult Conference Trip** – January 3-5



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



# YOUTH MINISTRY

## Reflections & Learnings

**The Cause** youth program on Sunday evening continues! We are currently journeying together through questions such as “is the Bible reliable?”. We are also trying out a new “digital prayer wall”, where we record our prayer requests and praises throughout the year. At the end of the year, we would then look back and see all that God has done in our lives.

Our **Youth Ministry Team** continues their faithful work in youth ministry! There is much work coordinated around our programs, fundraisers, special events, trips, and more. We are blessed with our members, who graciously use their gifts to support our youth.

Our **Youth Sunday School** continue their activities between church services! As the weeks go by, our teachers work with the students (and the calendar!) to decide what teaching series they’d like to use, and in what order.

The **Middle School Youth Club** group has been a joy to be with! I (Mark Slomski) have enjoyed my orientation into the Middle School portion of Youth Club. I typically partner with other adults to pick up the students from school, spend some informal time with them, learn about our faith with them, and eat dinner with them. Check out Deb’s Children’s Ministry page for more news on Youth Club!

Recent **Special Events** included the Game Night and the 2024 Mission Trip Interest Meeting! The **Game Night** was for Middle School and High School students, and included Chess (facilitated by my brother, Matt Slomski), and various other games. Our **2024 Mission Trip Interest Meeting** covered our options, including Camp Barnabas in Purdy, Missouri, and Group WorkCamp (Week of Hope) in Newark, New York. For those unfamiliar with Camp Barnabas, we are planning a trip to go there in order to serve campers ages 7-18 with developmental disabilities. We look forward to this important service opportunity!

**Monthly School Youth Connects** are underway! All of our school districts have completed their first round of connections. These mid-week connections are aimed at providing positive connections with their faith family. This is also a great time for the parents to connect with one another, as well! Check out the dates below for the next connection dates, times, and locations.

## Looking Forward

**Connect Canandaigua** – November 8 @ 6:45 AM (North Road Tim Horton’s)

**Connect Victor** – November 15 @ 6:45 AM (Main Street Tim Horton’s)

**TobyMac, MercyMe, Zach Williams Concert** – November 18, @ 7:00 PM (KeyBank Center, Buffalo, NY)

**Connect Marcus Whitman** – November 20 @ 2:30 PM (Gorham Free Library)

**Annual Mall Trip** – December 8 – Details TBA

**Princess Pajama Party & Young Lions Event** – January 19 – Details TBA



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### With thanksgiving and awareness

**Save the Date: December 9<sup>th</sup>**

Bell Ringing for Canandaigua Salvation Army at Runnings (inside location)

Volunteer for a one-hour shift between 10 am and 6 pm.

Ring the bell with a friend or family members.

Sign up on the bulletin board to bring JOY at Christmas and all year.



**We are collecting diapers** for CareNet Canandaigua **November 12 and 19!**

Sizes 5, 6, and 7 diapers and baby wipes are most in demand.

Place diapers and wipes next to the food cart in the Welcome Center.

**Thanks for the continuing grocery contributions for CCIA and the Canandaigua Salvation Army food pantries!**



**Did You Know? Some of Your Mission Dollars Return to the Community!** The Presbytery of Geneva offers Matthew 25 Grant opportunities to churches in the Presbytery. Last Spring the Official Board endorsed three grant applications on behalf of CCIA, The Good Neighbor Fund, and Called to Care, Canandaigua. Recently we were informed that each of these organizations have been awarded grants. Thank you for your continued support for mission monies which sometimes find their way back to serve our community.

**Called to Care, Canandaigua** has hosted its last general information meeting for the year but its mission and work continue. Over the weekend of October 20th-23rd Mirlande Occil and her children were finally settled into their apartment. The Kukhar family moved from their Beeman St. apartment into another Canandaigua apartment. And several months ago, the Oleksandr Tomashevskyi family also settled into a different Canandaigua apartment. Several family members have changed jobs and/or are looking for other employment. Sometimes it seems overwhelming to me but knowing that in a very short time the families we help are making independent decisions and plans for their families brings us at Called to Care, Canandaigua great satisfaction.



What concerns us now is their status as “humanitarian parolees” which means that they have been given temporary legal residency status for only two years. We certainly cannot envision them returning to either Ukraine or Haiti in the near future. So we are focusing on advocacy and joining others in addressing our concerns to our legislators. We have also invited an immigration lawyer from Rochester to speak with our Ukrainian families and offer advice about filing for Temporary Protective Status (TPS). Another meeting may be set up to advise our Haitian families on filing for asylum.

We have two more families in our “pipeline” and our leaders are thinking that welcoming and resettling nine families may have been enough. But we are open to listening to thoughts from our volunteers.

We have always appreciated the prayers and the tangible forms of support from the United Church and hope you will continue to support our “next up” big community events: Chasin’ the Blues on February 9th at Crosswinds Church from 7-9 PM, “Pie Day” on March 14th offering pre-sale orders from Leo’s Bakery, and a return of an International Gala sometime in the Spring of 2024.

In the meantime, please reach out to Cathy Bush, Wendy Stoddard or me, Linda Werts, to learn more or get involved.

# CHILDREN’S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

## What’s happened...

Youth Club, our Wednesday afterschool ministry for children in 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, is off to a great start with 51 children registered for the program! After school, we enjoy the four parts that make up Youth Club, which are: Recreation, Bible Study, Worship, and Family Time, which includes dinner. We have many dedicated volunteers helping each week with Youth Club, including parents of the children who attend – they provide snack for the children and help with kitchen clean-up. Below is a list our 2023-2024 volunteers. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

**Drivers from Middle School:**  
Pastor Wade Allen, Cathy Bush, Claire Sheppard,  
Pastor Mark Slomski

**Walkers from Primary/Elementary School and St. Mary’s:**  
Ed & Jeannie Blance, Becky Boseck, Kathy Eagan

**Recreation/Play:**  
*Games* – Pastor Wade Allen, Lauren Slomski, Julie Zajac  
*Crafts* –Joyce Laursen, Sandi Munson, Mary Wiser

**Bible Study:**  
*Grade 2* – Kathy Eagan, Grace Payne (Prayer partner: Beth Smythe)  
*Grade 3* – Cathy Bush, Joyce Laursen (Prayer partner: Karen Sanford)  
*Grade 4* – Ryan Marshall, Sarah Gross (Prayer partner: Joan Danaher)  
*Grade 5* – Lydia Busch, Julie Zajac (Prayer partner: Mary Lou Havens)  
*Middle School* – Pastor Mark and Lauren Slomski, Ed Blance (Prayer partner: Wanda Munt)

## What’s happening...

During the month of November, our families are invited to take part in our One Great Hour of Sharing mission project. Each day, read the sharing calendar, and as you are able, put coins in the fish bank as directed. This is a great learning experience for families as through the calendar we learn about the needs of others around the world and see how we can help through sharing what God has given us. **OGHS Fish banks and sharing calendars were given to Sunday School children in late October.** Please let us know if you would like to receive one. **Please return your fish banks on Sunday, November 26, and we’ll see how God multiplies the gifts we bring to bless others.**

**Worship:**  
*Leaders* – Nancy Burt-Preece, Becky Boseck  
*Groups* – Jeannie Blance, Cathy Bush, Linda Daggs, Kathy Eagan, Sharon Erb, Joyce Laursen, Julie Zajac  
*Sound* – Grace Payne

**Family Time:**  
*Cooks/Kitchen Crew* – Rich Bush, Megan French, Bruce Gardner, Grace Payne, Gary Preece, Vickie Salato, Claire Sheppard  
*Dinner Themes* – Connie Frye and Margie Wall  
*Dinner Dean* – Deb Marshall  
*Shoppers* – Joan Danaher and Sonya Brooks  
*Table Parents* – Pastor Wade Allen, Ed and Jeannie Blance, Becky Boseck, Nancy Burt-Preece, Linda Daggs, Kathy Eagan, Sharon Erb, Bev Fehrenbach, Deb Gardner, Joyce Laursen, Jen Manning, Deb Marshall, Robin Sheppard, Julie Sperano, Lauren and Pastor Mark Slomski, Linda Wells

**Childcare:**  
Claire Sheppard

# CHILDREN’S AND FAMILY MINISTRY

## What’s happening (continued)...

On November 19, the Christmas Angel Tree will be up in the Welcome Center and loaded with gift tags. If you are able to help with this outreach, you may obtain a tag by taking a tag off the tree in the Welcome Center or calling the church office at 585-394-0503 and asking if there are tags left to be fulfilled. Once you have received a tag (or information about a tag), please purchase the items, and return the *wrapped* gifts by **Sunday, December 3. Please be sure to affix the angel tree tag to your gift as this is required to help with sorting and distribution.** If you sign up for a gift via phone, we will put your name on the tag and hold the tag until you bring your gifts to church, so *please put your name on a note and attach it to the gifts you bring.* Many thanks for sharing with others from what God has abundantly provided for you! Questions? Please see Deb Marshall.

## Upcoming Events...

**Sunday, October 29** – Intergenerational Sunday school and Stewardship breakfast at 9:45am in the downstairs dining room. Please bring a dish to pass if you are able.

**Saturday, November 4** – Adult Ed Retreat at LeTourneau Christian Center...High School students invited, too

**Sunday, December 3** – Advent begins

**Saturday, December 16** – Christmas pageant practice at 9am

**Sunday, December 17** – Christmas Pageant at 10am

## Personal reflection...

July of 2023 marked 7 years of ministry for me at the United Church. It’s hard to believe that when I began this role, Adele was not yet in school. These are busy, yet precious days for our family as we now have a senior, a sophomore, and a 6<sup>th</sup> grader. Our lives are shifting as our children get older, but we still value our family dinners and other time we can spend together as a family of five.

Now that school-year-based church ministries are “running” and volunteers are in place, I find that I enjoy the routine that the school year brings. The regular schedule helps me keep an everyday balance of time with the Lord, time with family, and time for ministry work. As I look forward to the next 7 years, it will be marked with big changes for our family as we send kids off to college and the work force. I am excited to see how our faithful God moves and works in my life, our family, children’s and family ministries, and our church.

*“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives:  
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.  
There is no law against these things!”*  
Galatians 5:22-23