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Organist:	David Kraft	
Custodian:	Amber Bixby	

WELCOME TO THE UNITED CHURCH

Weekly Bulletin

Sunday
NOVEMBER 23, 2025





Order of Worship for
NOVEMBER 23, 2025



Welcome! The United Church is a Presbyterian/American Baptist congregation. We hope you enjoy your visit and let us know if we can help you in any way.

PRELUDE: Choral Prelude on “St. George” by Alec Rowley

WELCOME AND GREETING TO OUR ONLINE CONGREGATION

OUR PREPARATION

Focus of the Day: Peter’s final words challenge us to guard our spiritual inheritance against deception while actively growing in grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

INTROIT: (11:00) “A Prayer of Thanks”

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: We gather as people who have received everything we need for life and godliness.

People: God has given us great and precious promises.

Leader: Let us be on guard against all that would lead us away from truth.

People: And let us grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who calls us to stand firm and keep growing.

All: To Him be glory both now and forever!

***HYMN #381: “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”**

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***OPENING PRAYER:** Heavenly Father, as we come to the end of our journey through Peter’s final letter, help us to guard carefully all that You have taught us and to grow continually in Your grace. Give us wisdom to recognize anything that would lead us away from the truth and strength to keep developing in our knowledge of Jesus Christ. We pray this in Jesus’ name, who taught us to pray ... Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

***GLORIA PATRI: #807**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH THE WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 7:24-27 (page 961) {A.B. page 1060}

SPECIAL MUSIC: (8:45) “Simple Gifts” arr. John Coates Jr. (words on insert)
Nancy Burt-Preece and Joy Van Riper (vocal) and David Kraft (piano)

ANTHEM: (11:00) “Sing Your Thanks to God” by Larson (words on insert)
United Church Choir

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: (11:00) Deb Marshall

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 27:1-6 (page 546) {A.B. page 620}

Sermon
“Guard and Grow”
(2 Peter 3:17-18)
Pastor Wade Allen

OUR RESPONSE IN FAITH

***HYMN #534: “Draw Me Nearer”**

CCLI Song #25424, Public Domain, CCLI Lic. #11593017

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY: “All Glory Be to God on High” by Paul Manz (Ten Chorale Improvisations)

***DOXOLOGY: #809**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***HYMN #374: “Now Thank We All Our God”**

CCLI Song #86638, Public Domain, CCLI Lic. #11593017

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: “Nun danket alle Gott” by Sigfrid Karg-Elert

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

Health concerns: Marion Sumpter, Julia Nayar (niece of Karen Gardner), Scott Smail (friend of Kathleen Boniak), Sheila Henderson, John DiVincenzo (friend of Steve Simpson), unborn daughter of Laura & Conner Fry (heart issues, relatives of VanIseghems), Wendy Stoddard, Braeden Flynn, Shirley Kem, Phil Greene (Sharon Meyer's brother), Pastor Debbie Kamm (pastor at Dundee Baptist), Kathleen (Wanda Munt's daughter), Emma Sanford (granddaughter of Karen), Shane Collins (from LeTourneau), Brooke Covey (friend of Parsons), Daniel Zimmerman (nephew of Wendy Bacon), Rodney Newfrock (friend of Elaine Allen), Jack Bigos, Everest & Carly Ferrante (family of Ardelle Bigos), Deanna and Brexten Stocker (friends of Ardelle Bigos), Karen Mount, James Sheppard, Linda Gilbert, Jessica Canham (Sharyn's daughter), Mary Jane Laird, Denice Bailey Tautges, Tom Babcock (friend of Jenny Caron), Erik Keating (son of Al and Dawn Rossi), Louise Huck, Catherine Kurzdorfer (Adam Thorman's mother), Marcus (friend of Sandi DiCicco), Denise Loy (friend of Kory Massey), Steve Sedlock (Nancy Tharp's brother), Clancy Cragle (Michelle's grandfather), Jack Schermond

Cancer: Daniel Cage (friend of Wade Allen), Karen Linder (niece of Joyce Laursen), Sue Whybra and Rod Gifford (cousins of Joyce Laursen), Kathy Cool (daughter-in-law of the Pecks), Sophie Snyder (friend of Amelia Cunningham), Chris Alexander (Carolyn Russell's brother), Joy Mickelsen Oliver (friend of Joy Van Riper), Sarah Hough (daughter of Dianne Beaumont), Walter Enright (friend of Ardelle Bigos), Jon VanBlargan, Laura Fiorito (daughter of Charles and Patti Cagwin), Christina Tharp (daughter of John and Nancy), Douglas Cook (Jen Eveleigh's brother), Keith Laursen (Joyce's brother-in-law), Sasha (friend of Megan French), John Tornow (friend of Elaine Allen), Susan Hennessy (Jen Eveleigh's sister), Rich Crowley (Steve and Beth Smythe's friend), Tom and Monica Yurik (Bruce and Deb Gardner's friends), Deb Dawson (Steve Smythe's niece), Roderick Simonds (father of Natalie Clark), Dawn Miller, David Pagoda (Eveleigh family friend), Jim Davis (Scott's father), Stephen Carges (Paula Traber's brother)

Fire Recovery: Earl and June Pettit

Military Service: Nicholas DelVillano (Frye's son-in-law) USAF stationed in Germany, JJ Callard (USN), US Army LT1 Andrew Marlin (Tyler Bosecks husband) home from deployment, LTJG Nick Castiller (USN), MAC Adam Thorman (USN), E6 Cody Wells (USN) home from deployment, TSgt Timothy Peck (USAF)

Missionaries: Carlos Bonilla & Mayra Giovantti – the BGs (Central/South America), Christy Lafferty (Nicaragua), Leodegario Hernandez & Maria Angela Bautista (Bacalar, Mexico pastoral couple).

We want your Feedback!

Thank you for the feedback we have received. We want to continue to hear from you, so please share your thoughts or questions on the Feedback Pew Cards or contact us at feedback@uccdga.org.

Highlights for This Week

- **Adult & Young Adult Sunday School:** Come and join us!
 - **Choir Group** - Room 26 (2nd floor), ends by 10:25am. "Case for Christmas" Advent Study by Lee Strobel
 - **Parenting Coffee Hour** - Fellowship Room (1st floor). Focusing on Advent as a family.
 - **Bible Study** - James - Downstairs Dining Hall. A multi-week study using a Max Lucado study book.
 - **"Dig Deeper" Young Adult Bible Study** - Bell Tower (with occasional coffee shop outings!) - A deep study of selected passages in Romans (using the SOAP method).
- **Children's Sunday school mission project** - we are continuing to collect food for local food pantries this Sunday and next Sunday. Items are dropped off in the upstairs chapel. Sunday school kids have been encouraged to bring items all month. So far, we have collected 30 items. Our goal is to have 50 items by next Sunday, November 30.
- We need a **grocery shopper for Youth Club** beginning in **January**. This **volunteer role is shared** with another person so that you don't have to shop every week. Shoppers are given a detailed list of needs and asked to shop on Mondays or Tuesdays. **Interested?** Please see Deb Marshall.
- **Calling All Parents!** Sundays, from 9:45-10:45am, our Parenting Coffee Hour is your time to connect, recharge, and refocus. You are welcome to join us on any Sunday that works for your schedule. We'd *especially* love to see you **today**, as we talk about **Advent** (which begins November 30) and share practical ways to keep our families focused on **Christ** throughout the Christmas season. Come for the coffee, stay for the encouragement — and don't miss your **special gift** just for parents who join us **TODAY!**
- **Sunday, November 30** – Intergenerational Sunday school at 9:45am in the downstairs dining room. We will **not** be having a regular breakfast, but we need a few people to bring baked goods - please let Deb or Mark know if you plan to bring something.
- **Advent Books** - Check out the Advent devotional and educational books in the Welcome Center! Sign up for the book you would like, and it will be ordered for you.
- **Christmas Mall Trip** - Saturday, December 13 - 11:30am-8:30pm - A time for 6-12 grade students to gather during the Christmas season, to remember the first coming of Jesus, and to shop for loved ones. High school students will guide middle school students at the mall to shop for family. Afterwards, the students will drive through a Christmas Lights Drive-Through, and then head back to the church for more fun! Register online (and to find more event details).
- **Our Greeter/Coordinator for November: Bev F.** Please contact Bev if you need help signing up. We've opened up the sign-ups for the remainder of 2025!

Are You Visiting Us Today?

If so, WELCOME to the United Church, we are so glad that you have chosen to worship with us. We invite you to pick up a tan bag (with the United Church logo on it) for yourself/your family to take home and to learn a little bit more about us. **We are so happy that you joined us today and look forward to seeing you again soon!**



Children's Time

Children's Time meets after the Children's Sermon. **Children aged Kindergarten through 5th grade** are invited to participate. Parents, please pick up your children **promptly** after the service. (**Please note:** Kids in *6th grade and up* are asked to *remain in the service* with their families. Thank you!)

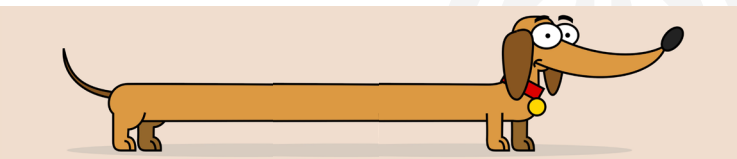
Nursery Care

Nursery care is offered during the late service. We use Room 10 (infants) and Room 11 (preschool) during the 11:00 am service. All volunteers in the nursery are background checked. **The nursery is open for parent use** (diaper changes, feeding, etc) **during the early service.**

Stewardship and Pledging

Stewardship season is nearing the end! Pledge forms for 2026 are available on the Welcome Center desk. They can be returned to the offering plate or the box in the Welcome Center or you can mail them into the office. You can also submit a pledge form digitally by following this link: <http://bit.ly/48BcbNw> or scan the code to the right.

We have a goal of getting **125 families** to return pledge forms, and we're up to **75!** Watch the main office and the Sunday bulletins for our progress towards this goal!



(meet Oscar, the dog,
and our mascot for this season)

Silent Auction 2026!

More information coming soon.

You may have noticed that I'm putting fewer email addresses, phone numbers, and last names in some of the bulletin (and Lamplighter) announcements. This is an effort to protect church members from scammers and bots that farm data from online publications and use it maliciously. You can always contact the church office if you don't have contact info for the people named. (New directories should be here before Christmas!) I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. If this proves too troublesome and/or doesn't help the issue, we may backtrack.

~ Carolyn (Office Manager/scam slayer)



Missions **Let the light of Christ shine through you in service to others...**

Food Cart & Card Ministry Location

The black collection wagon is in the Missions Collection Center in the south side of the newly remodeled Fellowship Room. We continue to collect needed food staples for **CCIA (Canandaigua Churches in Action)** and the **Salvation Army food pantry**. Our donations continue to be needed. Thank you for so generously sharing out of what God has provided for you. The **hand-made cards** that benefit Missions are also available there. Pop in after church to select some. Questions? See Mary Lou or Cathy B.



Winter Wear Drive

THANK YOU for the generous donation of warm coats and gloves. 3 bins of winter wear have been taken to the Clothing Closet at 120 N Main St and are MUCH needed and appreciated! This collection will continue through the winter months.

Urgent Food Request Update

A huge THANK YOU to the high school youth. They went shopping for food and necessities for our neighbors in need! The items were delivered to CCIA and the Salvation Army this week and they were most appreciative!! Thank you also to the congregation for your generous donations of food items and diapers. While waiting for SNAP and HEAP funds to become reinstated, families may have used up precious and scant resources. Local food pantries are especially thankful for your stepped up donations at this time of need.



Christmas Angel Tree

The Christmas Angel tree tags are up and loaded on the tree silhouettes in the Welcome Center. Our church partners with St. Benedict's Parish (St. Mary's) to get tags for our Christmas Angel Tree project. The request on the tags are for local needs. If you are able, pick a tag(s), *sign your name on the clipboard with the tag information*, purchase the item(s) and return the **wrapped** gifts to church by **Sunday, December 7**. **Please be sure to affix the Angel Tree tag to your gift as this is required to help with sorting and distribution.** Many thanks for sharing with others out of what God has abundantly provided for you! Questions? See Cathy B or Mary Lou H.



Please Print Legibly

Name: _____

I would like to order _____ Poinsettias at **\$11.50 each**.
They are given in Memory or Honor (circle one) of:



1.

Honor/Memory of: _____

Given by: _____
2.

Honor/Memory of: _____

Given by: _____
3.

Honor/Memory of: _____

Given by: _____
4.

Honor/Memory of: _____

Given by: _____
5.

Honor/Memory of: _____

Given by: _____
6.

Honor/Memory of: _____

Given by: _____
7.

Honor/Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Place this in the offering plate **WITH** your cash in an envelope or check made payable to
“The United Church”.

List in the memo section “Poinsettias”. You may also mail it in or bring to the church office.

ORDERS MUST BE IN NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7.

You may pick up your poinsettia(s) after church on Christmas Eve or on Dec 28th. Thank you!

Make A Difference With Every Ring

On **Saturday, December 6th** the United Church will be ringing the **Salvation Army bell** in the Running’s lobby from 10 - 4. We are currently looking for bell ringers from 1-2pm and 2-3pm. Please contact Sonya B. or Linda W. if available. This is a wonderful and fun way to support the Salvation Army and its charitable programs for our neighbors in need.



More Holiday Dates to Put on the Calendar

Watch the December Lamplighter and bulletin board for more details...



- November 27-28**

Office closed for Thanksgiving
- Friday, December 5**

Christmas Organ Concert featuring Duane Prill, 7:00 pm
- Saturday, December 6**

Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra concert, 4:00 pm
- Sunday, December 7**

The Bell Choir will play during 11:00 worship service
- Saturday, December 13**

Pageant rehearsal (9-10:30 am) and Mall Trip (6-12 graders)
- Sunday, December 14**

Christmas Pageant (10:00) and Birthday cake for Jesus
- Sunday, December 21**

Christmas Cantata (one service only at 11:00 am)
- Wednesday, December 24,**

Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm
- Sunday, December 28**

Prayer Service (one service only at 11:00 am)

December 24-January 2 Office closed for holiday (staff working from home)

Simple Gifts (8:45 service)
arr. John Coates Jr.

Verse 1

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

Chorus:

When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed;
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come out right.

Verse 2

'Tis the gift to be gentle, 'tis the gift to be fair,
'Tis the gift to wake and breathe the morning air,
To walk every day in the path that we choose,
'Tis the gift we pray we may ne'er come to lose.

(Chorus)

Verse 3

'Tis the gift to be loving, 'tis the best gift of all,
Like a quiet rain, it blesses where it falls,
And if we have the gift, we will truly believe,
'Tis better to give than it is to receive.

(Chorus)

Sing Your Thanks to God! (11:00 service)
By Lloyd Larson

Thanks, O God, our great Redeemer,
Thanks for all that you provide.
Thanks for the times now but a memory,
Thanks for Jesus by our side.
For new life we see in spring-time,
Thanks for colors of the fall.

Thanks for tears we've long forgotten
And for peace within the soul.
Thanks for prayers that have been answered
And for those that were denied.

Thanks for storms of life we've weathered
And for strength that you supplied.
Thanks for pain and thanks for pleasure,
Thanks for comfort in despair.
Thanks for grace that none can measure
And for love beyond compare!

We thank you, O God, our redeemer, creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring;
For we lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name, glad praises we sing!

Thanks for roses by the wayside
And for thorns their stems contain.
Thanks for home and thanks for fireside
And for hope, that sweet refrain.

Thanks for joy and thanks for sorrow,
Thanks for heaven's perfect peace.
Thanks for hope in our tomorrow,
Thanks through all eternity!
Sing your thanks to God!