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

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Or Current Resident

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The Lamplighter



The United Church 11 Gibson Street



Canandaigua, NY 585-394-0503

Worship Service 8:45 and 11:00 am (Dec 25 & Jan 1, 11:00 am only)

December 2022

Rev. Dr. Wade Allen



- Dec 4 Second Sunday of Advent
- **Dec 5** Joint OB/Trustees, 7 pm
- **Dec 6** Stewards, 7 pm
- **Dec 9** Youth Mall shopping trip
- **Dec 11** Third Sunday of Advent
- **Dec 11** Christmas Pageant, 10 am
- Dec 11 Special Congregational Meeting, noon
- **Dec 11** FLSO concert, 3 pm
- Dec 16 Annual Reports due to office
- **Dec 16** Christmas Organ Concert, 7 pm
- **Dec 18** Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Dec 23-30 -office closed
- **Dec 24** Christmas Eve service at 7 pm
- Dec 25 Christmas Sunday, one worship service at 11 am
- Jan 1 New Years' Day, one worship service at 11 am

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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!!



Let's help these Special Members celebrate their December Birthdays:

Dec. 13th - Betty Liestman is turning 92. She has been a member for 58 years-wow!! She joined in October 1964 with her late husband, George. Betty has three adult children, along with grandkids and great-grands. She's very happy to still be living at home where she enjoys her backyard gardens and birds. Betty has made good church friends from Circle 7 and she's often at the 11:00 Service.

Dec. 14th - Esther Pullis is turning 92. She has been a member for 27 years, joining in October 1995 with her late husband, Claude. Esther has participated in church life in many ways, with Circle 7 and the pre-school Sunday School, and she was previously on our staff as Co-Director of Visitation with Claude. Esther has two adult children, five grandkids, and seven great-grandkids! She's thrilled that many of them live in the area.

REMEMBERING:

Our prayers and sympathy are with the family of **Cynthia Harnett**, who passed away on October 22nd. Please keep her family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with the family of **Pamela Spencer (formerly Pamela Phipps)**, who passed away on October 24th. Please keep her daughters, Sara Phipps and Jenna Dickerson, in your prayers during this difficult time.

CELEBRATING:

Congratulations to Karen and David Reed on the birth of their new grandson, Camden Jarrod Reed, on November 3rd. His parents are **Jarrod Reed and Sarah Bessey**. Please keep the family in your prayers during this special 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

TO OUR CONGREGATION: In December of each year, the Stewards coordinate a Christmas Card Ministry for our Special Members. Please see the following page in this Lamplighter which lists all of our Special Members with their addresses - they would be so happy to receive Christmas cards from their church family! There is a supply of Christmas cards in the Welcome Center; feel free to take a few and send some jolly cheer to these members.

POINSETTIA ORDERS – Due Sunday, December 4th

Enjoy the beautiful colors of the Christmas season with a poinsettia plant! Order forms are in this Newsletter and in the Welcome Center; the order deadline is **Sunday**, **December 4**th. Call the Office if you need a form.

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 setup in the Sanctuary on Dec. 15th to decorate the church and you may take yours after the Christmas Eve 7:00pm Service, or after the 11:00am Service on Christmas Day.

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Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

PLEASE PRINT



| NAME: | | | | |
|--|------------|--|--|--|
| I would like to order Poinsettias at \$11.00 each. | | | | |
| They are given in memory or honor (circle one) of: | | | | |
| 1 | | | | |
| Given b | y : | | | |
| 2 | | | | |
| | y: | | | |
| 3 | | | | |
| | y: | | | |

Please pick up your poinsettia(s) after the Christmas Eve Service,

or on Sun., Dec. 25 after the 11:00 Service.

Checks payable to: "The United Church Stewards - Poinsettia"

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Place your form and check in the offering plate or mail to the church at 11 Gibson St., Canandaigua 14424

ORDERS MUST BE IN BY DECEMBER 4th



Children's Thanksgiving Mission Project - Fish banks and sharing calendar for One Great Hour of Sharing

Fish banks are due back December 4. Please place your fishbank in the basket in the gathering area. We will report our "catch" (total donations) collected in the bulletin. Thank you for sharing with others out of what God has provided for you!

Youth Club stocking project to Metro World Child ...

We filled 36 stockings for Metro World Child on Wednesday, November 9th. These stockings were then mailed to Metro World Child in Brooklyn. The stockings are given to children in need at a special Christmas program for families. Everyone who attends this program hears the gospel message.

Thank you to the many people who helped with this project! It was a true team effort of felt cutters, stocking sewers, stuffer donations, and creativity of the Youth Club kids. Please pray that these stockings will be tangible evidence of Christ's love to those who receive them.





Anyone can help with baking and prep needed for Youth Club! These tasks are typically a team effort. Please let Deb Marshall know if you are willing and able to help. Thank you!

- · For December 15 6 dozen Christmas cookies, frosted and decorated
- · For January 11 potatoes need to be washed and foil wrapped
- · For January 18 6 dozen smiley face cupcakes

Volunteer locally this holiday season! Are you looking to get out and serve our community this holiday season? Well, look no further! **Gleaner's Kitchen** is ready to welcome volunteers from The United Church **during the week of December 26-30**. You can help in the kitchen or the dining room. This volunteer opportunity is for all ages; however, please note that children 12 and under will only be allowed to help in the dining room. Please check your calendar, grab some friends or family, and sign up to help on the Adult Ed Bulletin board. ?s See Deb Marshall.

Christmas Angel Tree

The Christmas Angel Tree is up in the gathering area and loaded with gift tags. This year we are returning to doing the Christmas Angel Tree through St. Benedict's Parish (St. Mary's). The requests on the Angel Tree are all for local needs.



Once you have picked a tag, please purchase the items, and return the *wrapped* gifts to church by *Sunday*, *December 4*. 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 from what God has abundantly provided for you! Questions? Please see Deb Marshall.

Special Member addresses for Christmas cards here...

(removed for online posting, call the office if you need addresses!)

DECEMBER GREETERS:

Would you be able to serve as a Greeter for any of the Sunday Services in **December or for the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service**?

Greeters play an important role in extending **hospitality** in our church on Sundays. They welcome people as they enter the church building, they hand out Bulletins, and they collect the offerings during the 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 **December Steward of the Month, Bill Fortunato** or call the Office. *We really appreciate your service!*

THE STEWARDS ASSISTANCE FUND:

The loose money (coins and cash) placed in the **Offering Plates** on **Dec. 4**th (Communion Sunday) will be deposited to the **Stewards Assistance Fund.** We take this collection 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!

Have you been on our church website recently? We've got a nice new look,

and hopefully it will be easier for everyone to find what they're looking for.

https://www.unitedchurchcanandaigua.com/

Some of the links on the website will take you to updated versions of things like the calendar, livestreams, bulletins and Lamplighters, online giving, and registration for events. Check it out!



If you use a smartphone or tablet, download the free Church Center app to have easy access to everything church related! Be looking for an invitation to the online directory (if we have an email for you.)



A Special Congregational Meeting of the United Church will be held after the 11:00 service, in the sanctuary, on Sunday, December 11, 2022. The purpose of the meeting is to approve calling Mark Slomski as Pastor of Youth and Adult Ministry.



The Annual Meeting of the United Church will be held after the second service, in the Dining Room, on Sunday, January 22, 2023. Immediately after the 11:00 service the youth will host a baked potato and salad lunch. This will be followed by the Annual Meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the 2023 budget, elect officers, review the activities of 2022, and do any other business appropriate to the meeting.

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 is going strong with 42 students and many volunteers. We will take December 21 and 28 and January 4th off for Christmas and New Year's. We look forward to seeing you back at Youth Club on January 11th!

Parent Duties:

Kitchen Clean Up - Wednesdays, 6pm 'til done

December 7 – Hildebrandt, Hess,

December 14 – Pasquarelli, Aldrich, Grube

December 21 – No YC – Merry Christmas!

December 28 – No YC – Happy New Year!

Snack for 42 hungry children – at church by 2pm on Weds

December 7 – Clark

December 14 – Parsons

December 21 – No YC – Merry Christmas!

December 28 – No YC – Happy New Year!



Needed: Shepherds! Angels! Wise men!

Christmas Pageant - December 11, 2022 at 10am

If your child is interested in participating, please meet us for ONE practice on Saturday, December 10th at 9am in the sanctuary. We like to include children of all ages in this play. There are very few speaking parts, mostly narration (by older kids). All children will have costumes and be a part of acting out of biblical events that are part of the Christmas story. In other words, if you're willing, we've got a place for you!

The Pageant will take place Sunday, December 11th during the Sunday school hour (at 10:00) in the sanctuary. <u>Please arrive between by 9:45 to get into costumes</u>. The pageant will be followed by a birthday party for Jesus in the fellowship room.



Children's Ministries ~ Holiday Schedule

Sunday School 3 years old through 12th grade

Join us for Sunday School at 9:45am!

Nursery care is provided for infants - 2-year-olds

Nov. 27 and Dec. 4: Advent Sunday School

Dec. 11: Christmas Pageant

Dec. 18 and 25 and Jan. 1: No Sunday School

Jan. 8: Sunday School resumes for all ages!

Children's Time during 11am Worship Kindergarten through 2nd grade

Following the Children's Sermon at the 11am Worship service, children - age **K-2nd grade** - are invited to Children's Time upstairs in Room 26.

Children's Time (CT) will be offered most Sundays of the month except for Communion Sundays.

Occasionally, CT will not be offered due to school breaks. When there is no CT, Worship bags will be available for children to use during the service.

Christmas Day Sunday service

December 25 at 11am

In the sanctuary

Everyone is invited to a special service to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

A special sermon will involve children and point us to Jesus ~ the best and most important gift!.

Kids may come in their pajamas if they choose.



Joy to the World, the LORD is come!

Advent Devotionals for children

The season of Advent is the 4 weeks prior to Christmas when we prepare our hearts for the coming Messiah. This year Advent begins on November 27th.

- For preschool through Kindergarten: "Good News! Great JOY!" a display with stickers for each day of Advent. Each day, kids read a poem about a different part of the Christmas story, and place a sticker on their display.
- For 1st grade through 3rd grade: **"The Adverbs of Advent"** These daily devotions for families include scripture, a devotion, and a prayer. This devotional also includes a paper countdown chain for kids to make.
- For 4th and 5th grade: "**Mystery in the Manger**" Kids use mystery decoder glasses to find out what scripture to read for each day and then to find clues as they read parts of the Christmas story.
- For Middle School and High School: "**God's Word Comes Down**" These daily meditations for students include scripture, a reflection, a prayer, and an action step.

Children and youth will receive Advent devotionals in Sunday School on November 20th and 27th. Please let us know if we miss you! This Advent, set aside a special time each day to come together as a family to share in the anticipation of Jesus' birth?

"O Come. Let Us Adore Him!"



Anticipating the Gift of Jesus

Advent is about anticipating. Christmas decorations appear in stores, homes, and churches, reminding us that December 25 is not far away. We are preparing as we look forward to time with family, rest from everyday work and school schedules, and special gatherings. We begin to purchase gifts, make travel plans, and develop menus. We know that Christmas is coming, and we need to be ready.

Similarly, the season of Advent is about anticipating Jesus. The people in the first century looked forward to God fulfilling prophetic writings about a coming Messiah. For hundreds of years, they were looking for the words of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and others to come to fruition.

This year, we will be following the lectionary passages (particularly the Epistles) through the season of Advent. These passages call us to wake up to all God is doing in our world, to pay careful attention to God's Word, and to anticipate God's gift through Jesus.

If you have peered ahead to your December calendar, you might already know that Christmas Day (as well as New Year's Day) is on Sunday this year. We will gather in a combined service on these Sundays at 11 AM. On Christmas Day, the service will be a children-centered hour of worship that helps us consider the gift of Jesus. While it is tempting to skip church on Christmas Day, let me encourage you to join us for this special gathering (as well as our Christmas Candlelight Communion Service at 7 PM on Christmas Eve). These are excellent opportunities to teach our children the true meaning of the holiday.



December Worship Schedule

- December 04 Word of God (Romans 15:4-13)
- December 11 The Gift (Romans 1:1-7)
- December 18 Patience (James 5:7-10)
- December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (7 PM only this year)
- December 25 The Greatest Gift (Isaiah 9:2-7) (11 AM only)



Holiday celebrations



Join us for one service on **Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm** as we observe the Christmas story from the perspective of some of the characters. There will also be communion and candle lighting.

Then join us on **Christmas Day for one service at 11:00 am** as some children and pastor Wade share about the gift of giving. Children are welcome to come in their pajamas.

We will gather again for one service at 11:00 am on New Year's Day as we focus on readings and prayers for the New Year.



Let Music Warm Your Hearts with Christmas Joy! All performances are open to the community. Please invite your friends and family and mark your calendars now....

The popular Christmas Ceilidh Band returns on Saturday, December 3rd at 7:00pm to usher in the season with a bit of Celtic song and revelry. Local Celtic musicians Kevin Angus, Pat Carey, Ben Ford, Cathy McGrath, and Paul Gluchowski will entertain us with

an evening of Christmas carols and tunes and storytelling. We may even have a performance from our own piper, Andrew Duncan. A free will offering will be received.

On **Sunday, December 11th** at 3:00pm we are happy to welcome back the **Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra** with this year's "Holiday Celebration" under the direction of S. Shade Zajak. Tickets will be available at the door for this event.

Our **Traditional Christmas Organ Concert** is planned for **Friday, December 16th at 7:00pm.** Well known local organist Tim Schramm will perform this year with special guests Tim Burdick, saxophonist, Sam Wersinger, vocalist, and Dennis Overhoff, pianist. A free will offering will be received and a holiday dessert reception will follow the performance. If you would like to provide dessert items please see the sign up on the office door or speak with Ellen Parsons or Joyce Laursen.

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Though the church office will be **closed on Friday, Dec 23 and the week of Dec 26-30**, we will be checking phone and email messages, so please let us know if you have any prayer requests or need to contact a staff member. There will be folks about, but the flexibility for the staff to work from home as we're able during the holiday week is a special treat.



YOUTH NEWS

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Learnings

Since our Ruth series, we have continued following the Sunday morning sermons (at the time of this writing, we are finishing up the church values series). At the Cause, we generally spend our discussion time with the following agenda:

Prayer & Scripture Reading

Prayer – Our prayer tends to be led by me or the discussion facilitator, though we have begun asking the students to participate. We also plan to use some of the prayers used during our Sunday services that are found in the bulletins (after all, they are often related to the Sunday sermons!)

Scripture Reading – We use the same scriptures used during the sermon. This time is a valuable opportunity for our students to familiarize themselves with opening Bibles and consuming the message. Of late, our students have taken turns reading the passage.

Recollection & Application

Recollection – After reading the Scriptures, we ask the students who came on Sunday morning to recall the sermon message. This practice encourages the students to be engaged during Sunday services and helps other students (who were not at church in the morning) get up to speed. A wonderful aspect of our Cause group is the presence of other students from different congregations.

Application – Once the sermon message is fresh/introduced into everyone's minds, we transition toward application. This takes several forms, whether it is self-reflections on how the message moved them, or a direct application question on how the point of the message is to be lived out/responded to by each one of us.

Summary & Closing Prayer

Summary – We do our best to digest the message into a memorable statement or phrase. After a sermon series, we placed them onto a poster that will be hung in the room for reference.

Closing Prayer – This prayer goes beyond our message and includes prayer requests and praises of our students. This prayer time is sometimes led by me, though sometimes one of the students.

Why Follow the Sermons?

There are numerous ways to facilitate a weekly discussion with our Cause students. We look to reap the benefits of all sorts of approaches. For now, we follow our sermons for the following reasons:

- 1) Pastor Wade's sermons are Spirit-led
- 2) **Encourages attentiveness** during services
- 3) Challenges us to reflect/apply the message
- 4) Develops a sense of unity with the church



VORSHIP

We worship the Triune God in Spirit and Truth (John 4:24). Worship involves submitting ourselves to God as the Spirit empowers us.



GROW

We must grow in our faith, training ourselves to distinguish good from evil. (Hebrews 5:11-6:2, 1 Peter 2:2, 1 Corinthians 3:1-3)



REACH

Jesus sends his followers out on mission for God. We must carefully discern how God might call us to invite others into His Kingdom. (Luke 10:1-20, John 20:21)



CARE

As a Christian family, we must bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2). Walking alongside each other to meet spiritual and physical needs is at the center of who we are.

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Ministry at The United Church

December 2022

Reflections

The Cause program is well underway and active. We have found a rhythm, become comfortable with one another, and deepened our relationships. At the same time, we intentionally have moments that change pace and shake things up a bit. It's been fun to interact with our students both in the familiar and in the new. Being this far into the program year, we are observing growth in our group. Our worship time is a great example of this. After our opening events with a band from outside our church, we continued our worship services with projected lyrics and recorded music. There is a time and place for this type of worship, and there is value and utility in it. That said, our students quickly expressed the desire for live music – this time as a band themselves.

It wasn't long before 4 students coordinated a worship band and began practicing. Their assertiveness and talent made for a quick turnaround into live worship on Sunday evening (2 practices conducted before praising the Lord in front of their peers!). This activity inspired their friends, and now the band has grown to 6. I would be remiss not to mention the support they have received for our worship band activities, namely from Dale Zajac. We can count on Dale to come in early, stay late, and support our band as they seek to worship God to the best of their ability, with all the resources we have technologically at the church.

December Dates
12/4 – The Cause
12/9 – Christmas Shopping Mall Trip
12/11 – The Cause (Christmas Party)



Youth Band: Our worship band's first band practice.

We have also enjoyed watching our students express themselves. As comfort increases and opportunities to share and contribute continue, we have seen more and more students taking the chance to engage. Our seniors have taken leadership-style roles amongst their peers; our students from other congregations have made our youth group one of their own, and our quiet students have taken moments to speak.

Thank you to everyone who support our Cause group. We are blessed to have them in our lives and in our church family. Please continue to pray for our students, and follow the Lord's lead in blessing our students in word and deed.

Contact Information



On **December 18** we will be receiving our annual **Special Christmas offering** which is a combination of three offerings taken each year by our denominations. The American Baptist Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering, the Presbyterian Joy! Offering and the American Baptist America for Christ Offering all offer us the opportunity to help others as we celebrate God's perfect gift to us.

Through the Christmas Joy! Offering we honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, missionaries, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us and made

a difference in our lives. The Retired Ministers and Missionaries and half of the Joy offering both are ways in which we can show our thanks for their years of service.

Part of the Joy offering honors students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world.

The America for Christ offering works to cultivate leaders, equip disciples and heal communities across our nation and Puerto Rico. We are called to answer God's call to help and to heal. COVID 19, wildfires, hurricanes and other disasters have caused devastation and we can—together—work to bring hope into our broken world by equipping leaders and disciples who are the hands and feet of Jesus,

Thank you for your generous support of these three very important special offerings which we have combined into our Special Christmas Offering. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

Opportunities to Make A Difference This Christmas

- Browse the Alternate Giving catalogs in the Welcome Center, it's fun to give your brother a virtual PIG for Christmas while helping others!
- Sweatshirts, coats, men's winter socks, and gloves are needed at CCIA. XXL and XXXL coats are needed for both men and women.
- Gift cards to Walmart are needed by CCIA and Family Promise of Ontario County for perishable food, personal items, and shoes/clothing.
- Any of these gifts collected in the Welcome Center or office before December 20 will be delivered to CCIA or Family Promise as designated.



Called to Care ~ A couple of folks from the United Church are needed to be "on call" to donate new household linens (sheets, bath towels, etc) for the refugee family's apartment once we know the sizes and numbers needed. If you'd like to help in this way, contact Cathy Bush.

Stampin Up



The December **Stampin' Up** class is scheduled for **Dec 3rd** 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 shargmeyer@gmail.com) to sign up **by Nov 26th**. Sarah Gross will be leading this class.



| Treasurer's Financial Summary for January-October 2022 | | | | |
|--|---------------------|------------|---|--|
| | | | | |
| Description | Jan-Oct 2022 Amount | Budget | | |
| Income | | | | |
| Total Giving | 320,015.54 | 300,018.00 | | |
| Other Income | 17,156.54 | 44,752.00 | (budget includes transfer from surplus of \$31,522) | |
| Total Income | 337,172.08 | 344,770.00 | | |
| Spending | | | | |
| Education and | | | | |
| Ministry | 12,163.34 | 22,943.00 | | |
| Operating | 52,557.37 | 55,860.00 | | |
| Personnel & | | | | |
| Related | 266,970.02 | 266,995.00 | | |
| Total Expenses | 331,690.73 | 345,798.00 | | |
| Net Income Year to | | | | |
| Date | 5,481.35 | (1,028.00) | | |
| Generous giving continues to make our financial picture much | | | | |
| brighter than we were expecting it to be. Thank you! | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Nancy Lamberson | | | | |
| Treasurer | | | | |

Stewardship

If you have not sent in your pledge for your 2023 giving yet, pledge forms are available at church or by scanning this QR code. Paper forms can be brought on Sundays or mailed to the church office. Our Goal is 150 families pledging! Check the status on the thermometer outside the main office. As of this printing (11/22/22) we've had 78 families pledge.



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. (If you have recurring giving set up under the old Vanco program and are having trouble turning it off, let Carolyn know! She can help! Vanco will be discontinued at the end of the year.)



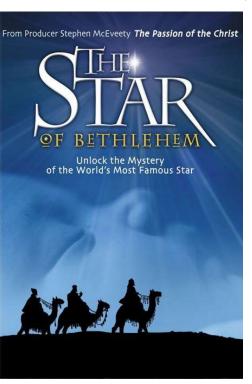


For two Sundays in Advent, our adult Sunday School classes will all meet together at 9:45. You are invited for a showing of

"The Star of Bethlehem"

Where: Downstairs Dining Room

- November 27 Part 1 with discussion led by Andrew Duncan
- December 4 Part 2 with discussion led by Paul Johnson



In the video, presenter Rick Larson walks you through biblical and historical clues revealing the incredible significance of this celestial event as well as the vastness of God's creativity.

- Dec 11: Adults attend our Children's Christmas Pageant at 10am, sanctuary.
- Dec 18, 25, Jan 1: No Sunday School classes, all ages.

Paul Johnson, Director of Adult Education, 585-794-2746