



SEPTEMBER 2025

THE Lamplighter

11 Gibson St., Canandaigua, NY 14424 • office@uccdga.org • (585) 394-0503



SEPTEMBER 2025 EVENTS

Sept 1
Office closed for holiday

Sept 2
Stewards, 6:30 pm

Sept 7
8:45 am & 11:00 am worship resumes

Sept 7
Sunday School kickoff breakfast, 9:45

Sept 8
Trustees, 7:00 pm

Sept 11-13
Pictorial Directory photography

Sept 13
Game Night, 6:30 pm

Sept 14
Adult Sunday School kickoff, 9:45
3rd Graders receive Bibles, 11:00

Sept 15
Official Board, 7:00 pm

Sept 28
Called to Care Concert, 3:00 pm



RETURN TO FALL SCHEDULES

Beginning September 7th, we will return to our Sunday morning worship services at 8:45 and 11:00 am. This is also the day we have a Sunday School kickoff breakfast (9:45) as well as the bell choir sharing special music with us at the 11:00 service.

FROM THE PASTOR



Peter's Final Words: A Series on 2 Peter

What would you say if you knew you only had a few weeks left to live? The apostle Peter faced exactly this situation when he wrote his second letter to the early church. Knowing his execution under Emperor Nero was approaching, Peter penned what would become his farewell message, and it's extremely relevant for us today.

This September, we'll begin our journey through 2 Peter. This short letter has much to say. Peter addresses challenges that sound surprisingly like 2025. He deals with teachers twisting God's truth for personal gain, leaders living corrupt lifestyles, and people questioning whether Jesus will really return. These weren't just first-century

problems; they're issues we still face today.

Throughout this series, we will learn that God has given us everything necessary for godly living. Rather than leaving us to figure things out on our own, Peter provides a roadmap for spiritual growth through what he calls God's "great and precious promises." We'll examine his eight-step ladder for spiritual development and discover why he believed we all need regular reminders of central truths.

Peter wrote with the heart of a pastor who deeply loved his people. Using vivid imagery like temporary tents and stirring up dying fires, he expresses his urgency to encourage

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INSIDE: **Page 10-11:** Photos from lakeside worship service
Page 12: Fellowship Opportunities
Page 14: Ken Allen's mission legacy

Peter's Final Words: A Series on 2 Peter

faith when competing voices create confusion.

What makes this letter especially powerful is Peter's own story of transformation. This is the same man who once denied Jesus three times. Yet he became the rock-solid leader of the early church. His words carry the weight of someone who learned from failure, experienced grace, and wants to strengthen others facing similar challenges.

Peter's second letter isn't long, but it's packed with wisdom for godly living. He addresses real-world challenges with biblical solutions, offering both encouragement and necessary warnings. Whether you're new to faith or have been following Jesus for years, Peter's final words have something valuable to offer.

believers while he still can. His letter defends the reliability of Scripture in an age when people questioned apostolic authority, offering solid ground for

Here's an invitation: Consider reading ahead each week to get the most from this series. The entire letter is only three chapters, making it manageable to read through multiple times during September. Peter wrote with urgency because he knew his time was short. While we may not face his immediate circumstances, his passion for spiritual growth and biblical truth speaks directly to our lives today.

This September, let's explore together what it means to grow spiritually, stay grounded in truth, and live with hope in Christ's return. Peter's farewell message reminds us that the Christian life is both a gift to receive and a calling to pursue with intentionality.

Join us starting September 7th for this encouraging series on 2 Peter. Come ready to be both comforted and challenged by the final words of one who walked with Jesus.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September

September 07 - Everything We Need (2 Peter 1:1-4)

Additional Readings: Jeremiah 1:4-10, John 1:35-42

September 14 - Make Every Effort (2 Peter 1:5-11)

Additional Readings: Psalm 119:9-16, Joshua 1:7-9

September 21 - A Lasting Reminder (2 Peter 1:12-15)

Additional Readings: Psalm 90:10-12, 14-17, Deuteronomy 6:6-9

September 28 - Eyewitness to the Truth (2 Peter 1:16-21)

Additional Readings: Matthew 17:1-8, Psalm 19:7-11



For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. //

- 2 Peter 1:5-9

Remembrance

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Harriet (Sammy) Czadzeck** for the loss of her husband, **Ronald Czadzeck**, on July 8th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Brenda Rizzo** for the loss of her mother, **Carolyn Kevin**, on July 10th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **David Kraft** for the loss of his sister, **Anne Kraft**, on July 15th. Please keep the Kraft family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Regina Allen** for the loss of her husband, **Ken Allen**, on August 5th. Please keep the whole family in your prayers during this difficult time.



Dear friends,

I am overwhelmed with the outpouring of love from our church family, neighbors, and all Ken's friends both here and in Mexico. I feel truly blessed. My family thanks you for the beautiful service that was held to celebrate Ken's life. He will live forever in our hearts.

Regina Allen

Celebrations

Join us in celebrating the birth of **Mari Rae Cooley** on July 17th. Her parents are **Holly and Dave Cooley**, and her grandparents are **Randy and Wency Bacon**. Please keep the family in your prayers during this joyous time.

We joyfully celebrate the birth of **Ellie Appleton**, new great-granddaughter of **Gail Benjamin**, on July 27th in Oklahoma. Ellie is the daughter of Gail's grandson, **Ben Appleton, and his wife, Melissa**. Her great-aunt and uncle are **Julie and Dale Zajac**. Please keep the family in your prayers during this special time.

Congratulations to **Wade and Christy Allen** for becoming first-time grandparents! **Jack Samuel William Castiller** was born on August 15th to parents, **Anna and Nick Castiller**. Please keep the family in your prayers during this special time.



September 4 Mary Vink!

Whenever I visited with Mary she always had a warm smile on her face and seemed truly happy to see me. I think I was her connection to her church family. Mary's in a wheelchair, but that never slowed her down. She would scoot around and say "hi" to so many. She is a true social butterfly. Unfortunately, Mary has moved from Quail Summit due to health reasons and is now in the Rochester area. I miss her, as her family has requested holding off on visits. I pray she's still smiling and able to get around in her wheelchair.

Written by her Steward Bev F.

September 30 Mary Jane Laird!

Mary Jane is very active with Bible study on Tuesdays that she started at the Chosen Spot Apartments quite a few years ago. She has many friends and visits others there at Chosen Spot. She loves the card and calls from friends and family. Jane is a joy to spend time with. I've known Jane over 50 years. She's joyful and fun to be with and she loves the Lord. Happy Birthday Jane!

*The Heart Behind Every Card: Team Reflections***From Roberta O.:**

What inspired you to be part of the Card Ministry Team?

"I started into the card ministry during Covid as a way to keep in touch with people from church and to help out with sending notes to people that needed to know that our church still loved them and cared for them."

It was a good fit for me I thought because I had already started making greeting cards for family and friends several years before Covid. So the card ministry just felt like a natural extension of that.

My prayer is that my cards would provide joy and a sense of connection for all those that receive them, and that they would know how much our church cares about them."

From Nancy G.

What do you pray or think about as you prepare a card for someone?

"The card ministry is dear to me because I can reach out to my fellow Christians and share God's love and care for them. I always pray that they will find comfort, peace and joy in knowing that they are God's beloved."

CARE MINISTRY

Friends & Fellowship: 85 & Up Fall Event

Saturday, October 18 at 11:00 a.m.

We're excited to host a special fall gathering for all in our church family who are **85 and older**. This meaningful event begins in the sanctuary with a time of music, devotion, and Communion, followed by lunch and shared fellowship.

Whether you are a Senior Companion or simply part of this cherished age group, we hope you'll join us for a morning filled with encouragement, connection, and celebration.

RSVP to Christy @ christy.allen@uccdga.org or the Church office



Care Ministry Team Gathered for Ice Cream and Connection

On Tuesday evening, July 29, members of the Care Ministry Team gathered in the Welcome Center for an Ice Cream Social, a simple and meaningful time to connect, meet one another, and enjoy conversation over a sweet treat.

The gathering brought together volunteers from across the Care Ministry, including those who serve in visitation, transportation, support, and behind-the-scenes roles. It was encouraging to see so many in one place, especially given that much of their work happens quietly and individually. (See their photos on the next page!)

The evening served as a reminder that the heart of care ministry lies not only in the ways we serve others, through visits, calls, meals, or rides, but also in how we support one another as a team.

We're grateful for each person who gives their time and compassion so generously. It's a privilege to serve alongside such a faithful group.

If you'd like to learn more about Care Ministry or how to get involved, feel free to reach out to Christy Allen at christy.allen@uccdga.org.



FACES OF TEAM MINISTRY

Each team plays a vital role in offering Christ-centered care to our church family. Here are the people behind the ministry -- serving with compassion, presence, and purpose.

*Not all team members were present.



Visitation Team

Providing encouragement and companionship through visits, calls, and cards.



Transportation Team

Offering rides to worship services, appointments, and errands -- keeping people connected and cared for.



Support Team

Helping with practical needs such as light repairs, household tasks, and seasonal chores.



Meal Train Team

Delivering meals to individuals and families during times of illness, recovery, or transition.



Hospitality Team

Creating a welcoming environment on Sundays by engaging intentionally with those seated in the sanctuary.



Care Ministers

Offering one-on-one spiritual and emotional support during times of grief, illness, or life challenges.



Card Ministry Team

Sending handwritten cards to offer encouragement, comfort, and connection throughout the year.



Prayer Shawl & Crafty Christians

Creating handmade items like shawls and lap blankets, to remind people they are loved and prayed for.

"Even when we understand that lifting someone else's load fulfills the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2), we might think we're not equal to the task and be tempted to pass the responsibility to a "more qualified" believer. But the Lord intends something different for us. Our unique experiences equip us to help in ways that others cannot. Ask God how you can begin to help bear the burdens of your neighbors, and know you'll be blessed mightily in the process".
~ Dr. Charles Stanley

Summer Camp

This summer, **34** children from our church were sent to Christian camps with your help from our campership fund. **Our mission budget provides ½ the cost for one week at a Christian camp for any child that attends Sunday School, Youth Club, and/or The Cause.**

This can make a huge difference for parents who otherwise may have to decide between sending only one of several children to camp, or no one at all. With all the different choices available for kids, we are so glad to encourage them with a lasting experience, one that will strengthen their relationship with Jesus Christ....one that has *eternal* benefits! **Thank you for your support!**



FAMILY MINISTRY



Nursery needs volunteers

Nursery Care for **infants through preschoolers** is provided every Sunday. The nursery is staffed with volunteers during both Worship services and during the Sunday School hour. **We need MORE nursery volunteers to help care for our littlest ones.** We can use adults and kids aged 7th grade and up. Please contact Louise Van Iseghem or Deb Marshall if you are interested in volunteering for the nursery. *Please note that all people 18 and over who volunteer in the nursery need to be background checked* – this is a quick and easy process! Contact Carolyn to be checked.

True North VBS: trusting Jesus in a Wild World!

The week of July 14-18 was a valuable week in the Kingdom of God as 56 children (38 from our church, 18 from the community) learned that Jesus is a faithful friend we can always trust! The daily Bible points taught kids that when we wonder, when we feel alone, when we feel powerless, when we need hope, and when we need help...we can trust Jesus! Kids were guided on an ultimate Alaskan adventure and as they trekked the tundra, kids discovered

how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward Jesus, our week of VBS showed kids that **He is our True North!** Children learned about the daily Bible point and Bible stories through drama, songs, games, science experiments, videos and crafts. God faithfully provided 55 adults, teens, and tweens who served as crew leaders, station leaders, snack preparers, station helpers, crew helpers, nursery caregivers, and photographers. **Thank you also to ALL who supported us with generous donations, prayers, scenery help, set up, and clean up! We appreciate each of you!** Our VBS mission project, Operation Kid to Kid, raised \$310.70 for warm clothes and blankets for kids living in North America. What a generous bunch of VBS families! **That's a God sighting!**



"To Him who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all we can think or ask, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen!"

Ephesians 3:20-21

YOUTH



2025 Summer Events Reflection - We have greatly enjoyed several special events this summer! Several students and adults attended Kingdom Bound, and enjoyed rides during the day and Christian music in the evening. The Youth Retreat focused on Sabbath Rest devotionally. Lots of lake time, painting, and tons of fun and games enjoyed! Thank you to the numerous volunteers who served our youth during these events.

Summer Mission Experiences - At the time of this writing, our second year of mission experiences are around the corner! Our agenda includes a scavenger charity hunt, relationship building with senior companions, service at CareNet and the church, lunch prep support for the Framing Frenzy, and a Seabreeze fun day for students that participants at any of the participants.

MS/HS Sunday School - We are grateful for three teachers who have agreed to lead our students this year: Ray McMillen (HS), Sandi DiCicco (MS) and Blair Posson (MS). New for this year, Lauren Slomski will be conducting weekly activities at the beginning of the Sunday School hour for both the Middle School and High School students. Program year starts Sep. 7!

The Cause - Parents and High School students are invited to our kick-off on Sep. 14 at 5pm! This year, we will be spending time in classic Bible Study, all while touching on foundational beliefs and student-requested topics.

Check the church calendar online for upcoming youth events.

Student Spotlight

Name: Chris Zajac

Grade: 12th grade

School: Victor Senior High School

What's your favorite way to spend a Saturday?

My favorite way to spend a Saturday is to play video games and hang out with my cats.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

If I could travel anywhere, I think I would like to go to France, because I am interested in their culture and food.

What's a food you could eat every week and never get tired of?

Cheeseburgers are always a food that I enjoy.



What's something you're looking forward to after high school (or in the next season of life)?

I am excited about going to college in order to get ready for adulthood.

What's a Bible book that means a lot to you right now, and why?

I like reading the book of Kings. They have some very interesting storylines in them.

If you could share one thing about Jesus with someone who doesn't know Him, what would it be?

I would share that Jesus loves them.



Young Adult Summer Connects

Several of our young adults work and travel during the summer, which makes connections logistically difficult. Nevertheless, we were able to coordinate an ice cream outing a chipotle lunch run, and a trip to Watkins Glen Raceway! Pray for our young adults as they enter the Fall season.

Adult Retreat

We enjoyed another adult retreat at Onanda Park, focused on Sabbath Rest as the people of God. Based on survey data from this year, we will be offering the 2026 retreat during the Fall season.



Small Group Bible Study Initiative

To start off the program year in September, we will conduct an estimated 6-week adult and young adult **small group Bible studies**, with large group kick-offs and wrap-ups. We believe this is an important step in our adult/young adult ministries, in response to the need for **open** small groups, as well as a response for the desire for Bible study. We will be following the sermon series in 2 Peter. You can expect a variety of “small group types”, including a choir group (that ends earlier), a parenting group (that starts later/has increased social time at the front of the class), and general small groups (all welcomed).



WORSHIP AT THE LAKE

Snapshots from the August 17th worship service at Onanda Park!



Following the worship service, Lily Munson and Christy Jensen were baptized in Canandaigua Lake. Led into the waters by their spiritual mentors (Lily's mother and Christy's friend) they walked out to Pastor Mark to be fully submerged and arise anew.

BAPTIZED IN THE LAKE!



FELLOWSHIP



Game Night is Back!

Looking for something fun to do? Join us for Game Night on **Saturday, September 13, from 6:30-8:30 pm**. This family friendly event offers an opportunity for church members of all ages to come together and enjoy a variety of board games, card games, and friendly competition. Whether you're a seasoned game master or just looking to have fun, there's something for everyone. **Snacks and refreshments will be available** to enjoy as you engage in lighthearted fun and connect with others in the church community. Bring your friends, family, or come solo -- game night is a great way to meet new people and build lasting relationships. We look forward to seeing you there!

Stampin' Up



September 20 from 9:30 - noon

Come join us to create some cards. No experience is needed. Cost is \$20 for 4 cards and envelopes. Please bring a tape runner or glue. I will have everything else needed. Please let me know if you are coming by the Monday prior.

Email Nancy Burt-Preece: nancyburtpreece@gmail.com

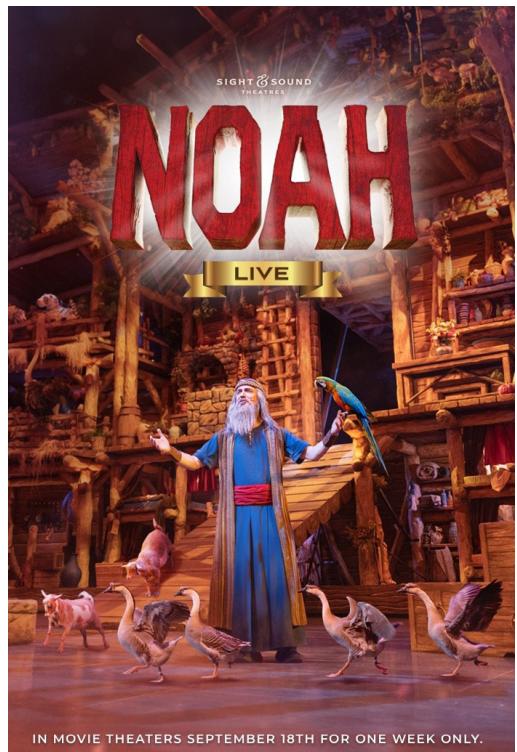
Noah is coming to Eastview Mall!

Sight & Sound Theater is sending a video of their 30th Anniversary performance of **Noah** to movie theaters for a week in September. The closest one to us is the Regal Cinema at Eastview Mall. I thought it would be fun to get a group together to go see it. I purchased a ticket for the **matinee showing (3:30) on Saturday Sept 20th** and would love company! We can carpool from church or folks can meet at the theater if that's more convenient. Everyone is responsible for purchasing their own tickets (there is assigned seating for this event, so you should purchase them ahead of time). I'm in seat E1 if you'd like to see a familiar face. Children must be accompanied by an adult. If you would like to carpool from the church, please let me know so that I don't leave anyone behind. Here's a link to purchase tickets: <http://bit.ly/45VWXRy>
Nancy Lamberson (nancy.lamberson@uccdga.org) 585-662-7648

2025 Christmas Cantata



The United Church Choir, accompanied by instrumentalists, are presenting an exciting and beautiful Christmas Cantata for our morning worship service on **Sunday, December 21st**, called, "Sing We Noel" by Joel Raney. We encourage you to be a part of this engaging presentation. **Practices will be held Wednesday nights, 7:00-7:40 pm in the choir room starting September 3rd**. Let's spread the word to all your musical friends (both vocal and instrumental). Please contact Georgia Sperano either in person or at gsperano@rochester.rr.com to express your interest.



IN MOVIE THEATERS SEPTEMBER 18TH FOR ONE WEEK ONLY.

A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR CALLED TO CARE, CANANDAIGUA

JOURNEYS

A program of original and traditional songs by
Jim Kerr and Wendy Stoddard

When: Sunday, September 28th, 3:00 PM

Where: United Church, 11 Gibson Street, Canandaigua

Free will offerings gratefully accepted

Light refreshments will be served



CALLED TO CARE, CANANDAIGUA IS A LOCAL, ALL VOLUNTEER, 501(C)3
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE WELCOME AND RESETTLEMENT OF
REFUGEES AND OTHER DISPLACED PERSONS.



MISSIONS



A Wonderful Ministry Offers an Opportunity for Others! As I pondered how to express my own sense of loss at the news of Ken Allen's untimely passing I am assured he would want me to share the planning and conversations we had since he returned from **Living Waters for the World's Clean Water U** this June. As a backdrop ... years ago Ken and I were at the same round table of pastors in Mexico in 2006 when we heard the request from Avimael Escobar from the Misión Sinai mission church in Limones for Living Waters for the World (LWW) to bring the living waters of Jesus Christ and clean potable water to their community. Ken returned home and immediately became an "ambassador" for this amazing organization that trains, equips and supports volunteers in forming global, clean-water mission partnerships empowering everyday people to change lives through clean water with the construction and installation of purified water plants in rural communities. He raised interest and awareness here at the United Church and in the Presbytery of Geneva and indeed the United Church became a substantial donor to LWW over the many years since 2006.

I returned home and immediately set about to form a team at Park Presbyterian Church, train at Clean Water U, and became the project manager for an installation in Cedralito (2011) partnering with LWW and the twelve members of Misión Monte Horeb. That would be the first of my five installs.

Eventually, and I don't remember when, Ken's "ambassadorial" role and my "people of action" initiatives joined forces. And he became the heart and soul of each of our shared mission trips in Mexico. He trained at Clean Water U as a 102 - the Health and Spiritual Education curriculum - and became a team member for the install in Limones in 2018 and then again for an install in Tabi in 2022 and most recently in March of this year as a support to the rehab of the Cedralito plant. He went on to train at Clean Water U taking the 103 ROS course - Water System Installation, Operation, and Maintenance and this June he trained again taking the 101 - Project Management and Relationship Development.

Ken's greatest hope was that the United Church would embrace his water ministry by forming its own LWW team and transforming lives with a new Living Waters for the World install in a Mexican community in the near future. His Bulletin messages this summer were meant to inspire. And on August 1st Ken and I had an empowering conversation about how that might happen. Now I wonder... could that be a lasting legacy in honor of Ken's ministry, service, and love for his Mayan brothers and sisters in Quintana Roo?

If this sparks an interest with you please reach out to me, Linda Werts, or Sonya Brooks, mission committee chair, or Ray McMillen, Mexico mission participant.

Foodlink's "Pop-Up Food Pantry" offers food items monthly to food insecure families. United Church members join other community volunteers to prep items that come off the Foodlink truck and load them into cars as clients drive through the barn. Please join us on **Monday, September 22nd** at the Town of Canandaigua Highway Barn, 5440 Route 58 & 20, from **9:00am till around 11:00am**. For those seeking food, vehicles enter from Buffalo Street with distribution beginning at 10:00am. See Linda Werts for more info.

First Fridays at Cameron! We are once again partnering with Cameron Community Ministries in Rochester by serving lunch to local guests on first Fridays of each month. We've gotten to know the chef and staff and they look forward to our visits! Two or three of us carpool together...leaving Canandaigua around **11:00am** and returning around **2:00pm**. Please let Mary Lou Havens know if you have interest. The next "first Friday" is **September 5th**.

The Hands On Mission Team delivered 25 "**Welcome Home Hygiene Kits**" to the **Salvation Army** in July. A shout out of thanks to the many United Church members who donated items and packed up the kits. Such a small act of kindness serves as a blessing for others. They were gratefully received by the new leader, Captain Jeremiah Eisley.



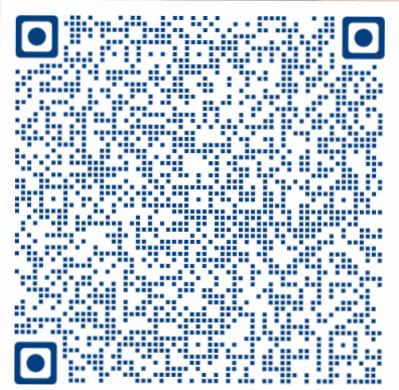
Care Net Fundraiser

September 13th, 10 until 3
Cost is \$15 for 1/2 chicken,
Mac salad, slaw, salt potatoes

Runnings parking lot

Join us
for our chicken BBQ
Catered by Gale-Wyn

E-tickets \$17.85





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