

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

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

Or Current Resident



The Lamplighter

The United Church
11 Gibson Street



Canandaigua, NY
585-394-0503

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

January 2023

Rev. Dr. Wade Allen



- Jan 1 – New Years’ Day, one worship service at 11 am
- Jan 3 – Stewards, 7 pm
- Jan 9 – Trustees, 7 pm
- Jan 16 – Office Closed for MLK Day
- Jan 16 – Official Board, 7 pm
- Jan 21 – Sledding Event, 1-3 pm at Mertensia Park
- Jan 22 – Annual Congregational Meeting and Potato Bar, noon
- Jan 22 – Communicants Classes begin, 9:45 am
- Jan 29 – Intergenerational Sunday School Class, 9:45 am
- Jan 29 & Feb 5 – New Officer training, noon



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(There are no Special Member birthdays in January!)

REMEMBERING:

Our prayers and sympathy are with the family and friends of **Sybil Amico**, who passed away on November 24th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Stephen Sedlock** (Nancy Sharp’s brother, who worships online with us every week), whose former wife, **Linda**, passed away recently. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our sympathy and prayers are with **Hiram Bailey**, whose sister, **Marjorie Jines**, passed away recently. Please keep Hiram and Linda and their family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our sympathy and prayers are with **Rita Ebersol**, whose husband, **Jack**, passed away last Sunday, December 11th. Please keep Rita and her family in your prayers during this difficult time.

CELEBRATING:

We celebrate the November 30th birth of **Daniel Scott Reed**, Grandson of **Karen and David Reed** and Mary Ellen and Daniel Finucane. His parents are Ellen and Scott Reed. Please keep the family in your prayers during this special time. This is the second grandson born within a month for the Reeds!

Tyler Boseck wed Andrew Marlin on November 5, 2022 in Pittsburgh, PA. Tyler is the daughter of **Philip and Alison Boseck**

The Marlins have settled into their new home at
335 E Missouri Ave
Fountain, CO 80817

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



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

On Sunday, January 22nd, the Services will include a special time to remember our church family members who passed away in 2022. A bell will chime after each person’s name is read aloud. Families of the deceased members will be invited to worship with us.

SENIORS: THE STEWARDS WOULD LIKE TO KNOW...

...which members are turning **90 years old** this year!! If **you** are, or you know of a church member who is, we’d like to know because at age 90, these members become part of our marvelous group of **Special Members!** Please contact Virginia Holroyd at the office or email her at: virginia.holroyd@uccdga.org.

Special Members are those in their 90s, and/or who are homebound, in nursing homes, or need temporary special care. The members of the **Board of Stewards** visit our Special Members regularly.



2022 CHRISTMAS CARD MINISTRY FOR SPECIAL MEMBERS: *Thanks so much to the entire congregation for sending Christmas cards to our Special Members. The Stewards received many thanks from the Special Members for the joyful cards they received! The Special Members also appreciated the colorful Christmas placemats which the Youth Club kids made for them!*



Karen Roaix would like to thank all of those in her church family that reached out with support when her mother, **Dorothy LaBrake**, passed away recently. The cards and prayers were very much appreciated.



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

We will take January 4th off for New Year’s. We will see you back at Youth Club on January 11th!

Parent Duties:

Kitchen Clean Up – Wednesdays, 6pm ‘til done (usually about 7pm)

January 4 – No YC – Happy New Year!

January 11 – Vassello, Parsons, Cloutier

January 18 – Sheppard, Pasquarelli, Hess

January 25 – TBD

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

January 4 – No YC – Happy New Year!

January 11 – Zajac

January 18 – Cloutier

January 25 – Soberon



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 January 18 – 6 dozen smiley face cupcakes
- For February 8 – 6 dozen frosted cupcakes with sprinkles



Join us for an afternoon of Intergenerational Church Family Fun!!

Sledding Day!!

Saturday, January 21, 2023, from 1-3pm

Mertensia Park in Farmington

Bundle up, bring a sled, invite friends or family, and join the fun!

Chart a course for VBS!! July 10-14, 2023, 9am – 12noon; Kick-off on Sunday, July 9, 2023 at 6:30pm



All children, ages 4 years old through those who completed 5th grade, are welcome to participate!
Children/teens who completed 6th – 12th grade are encouraged to volunteer!

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

Jan. 1: No Sunday School

Jan. 8: Sunday School resumes for all ages!

Jan. 29: Intergenerational Sunday School class

Nursery Volunteers Needed!!!

We offer nursery care during all Sunday services.

We are currently in need of nursery volunteers to serve on Sunday mornings. You can serve any amount that fits your schedule...once every 5 months...twice every 5 months, every other month, or once a month.

Please prayerfully consider serving our church in this way. Contact Deb Marshall with any questions.

The GREETERS SIGN-UP SHEET needs YOU!!

We need **Greeters** for both Services each Sunday in **January**. These volunteers greet people as they enter the church building, they hand out Bulletins, and collect the Offering during the Services. The Board of Stewards Greeter Coordinator for January is: **Sue Ann Clemens**.



The **Sign-up Sheet** is on the Church Office door. This is a terrific way to serve and connect with your church family! Reminders are emailed the Friday before the Sunday you're volunteering. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Ann or Virginia Holroyd. ***We really, really appreciate your help!***

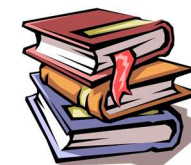
CHURCH LIBRARY: Did you know....

...that we have an updated library near the Gibson St. entrance?

Come check it out! **Books, DVDs, CDs** and more are eager to be borrowed during these long winter months.

Book categories include, among others: Christian Growth, Bible Commentaries, Prayer, Christian Novels, Caring and Grief, History, and Daily Devotionals. We also have Bibles, hymnals, and the Bible on audio CD. You'll find books from some favorite authors such as C. S. Lewis, Philip Yancey, Max Lucado, and Warren Wiersbe. DVDs include Bible Studies along with titles for family entertainment.

Just write your name on the inside pocket card and put the card in the silver box. We'll reshelv your items when you return them so leave them in the brown return box.



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.)



Intergenerational Sunday School Class

January 29 at 9:45am

In the downstairs dining room

Everyone is invited to a special intergenerational Sunday School class.

Some breakfast snacks and drinks will be provided.

Let's continue to grow together as a church family as we dig into God's word together!

Please join us!



Children's Thanksgiving Mission Project - One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks

Fish banks have been "reeled in." Thank you for sharing with others out of what God has provided for you! We will report our "catch" in the January bulletins. Stay tuned!



Christmas Angel Tree

Our congregation fulfilled **100** gift tags on the Christmas Angel Tree through St. Benedict's Parish (St. Mary's)! Thank you for your generosity in helping others during the Christmas season.



Stampin' Up

The January **Stampin' Up** class is scheduled for **Jan 21st** from 9-12 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 Jan 15th**.





The Life and Ministry of Jesus

New Year's Day is on Sunday this year. Please join us as we begin 2023 with a special prayer, readings, and song service. We will gather in one service (11 AM only) on January 1 to start the new year together.

The following Sunday is the first Sunday of Epiphany, a season that gets less emphasis than Advent, Christmas, Lent, or Easter. Yet this essential season prepares us to appropriately transition from Christmas to Lent as we reflect on the life and ministry of Jesus. The season begins on January 6, commemorating the first manifestation of Jesus to the Gentiles, the Magi (or wise men). Most of us think of the star as we consider the Magi. And indeed, a key theme in the season of Epiphany is light. John put it this way,

(John 1:4 NIV) In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

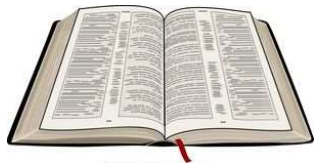
Throughout the Epiphany season, we will walk through the life and ministry of Jesus. As Jesus begins his ministry, he brings light to a dark world. We will journey into the wilderness with the story of John the Baptist, discuss the calling of the disciples, and consider a pivotal sermon that inaugurates Jesus's earthly ministry. This year, our study will focus on Matthew's gospel (Revised Common Lectionary Year A).

The season of Epiphany is a beautiful way to begin the new year. Please join us each week as we unpack the incredible story that never grows old.

Wade

January Worship Schedule

- January 01 - Prayers for the New Year (Various Readings)
- January 08 - A Lesson in Humility (Matthew 3:13-17)
- January 15 - Discovering Jesus (John 1:29-42)
- January 22 - Leave Your Nets (Matthew 4:12-23)
- January 29 - Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-12)



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 NEWS

Youth Ministry at The United Church

Reflections

The Youth Ministry team seeks to provide our students with opportunities to serve others in need. Our first service event of the program year focused on Operation Christmas Child. Our students came together and filled 16 shoeboxes full of gifts for children.

Gifts, shoeboxes, and ideas came from several families and caring church members. During our packing event, the students enjoyed a light-hearted atmosphere full of laughs and smiles. Once the shoeboxes were all packed, we prayed over them as a family. We prayed for children receiving these gifts, and for those who work hard in coordinating their delivery.

We are proud of our students and their care for others!

Helpful Hands: Students demonstrating their elite carrying skills



Worship Time: The Cause group worshipping the Lord in the chapel with Advent music

Learnings

The holiday season brings reduced opportunities to connect with our students through normal Cause programming at the church. That said, we are enjoying Advent themed discussions and events.

We enjoyed our guest facilitator and cherished church member Gail Benjamin on December 4th. The time and effort she gave in sharing God’s word along with her own testimony was appreciated!

At the time of this writing, we are eagerly awaiting the annual mall trip. This event provides an opportunity for the middle school and high school students to get to know one another while they shop for Christmas gifts. We pray our students grow in their relationships with one another and continuously cultivate a heart of giving during this Christmas season.

January Dates

2023 Calendar will be posted outside the Youth Office mid-December

Contact Information



Mark Slomski
Youth Director
585-455-7491
Mark.Slomski@uccdga.org



Adult Ministry

**Our new year starts in the word together! Here is our
Sunday School schedule for January.**

January 1: New Year’s Day – No Sunday School, all ages.

January 8: A special Sunday School for all Senior High and Adults together at 9:45

“A Life in Christian Music”

- Charlie Lowell of the band “Jars of Clay” will be with us from Nashville, Tennessee through an interactive Zoom session.
- Charlie will tell his story, his testimony, about making a living in the music industry and talk with us about a public life as a Christian.
- Bring your questions – What have you always wanted to know about Christian music? a career? raising a family in the music world?

January 15 and 22: Regular weekly Sunday School classes resume.

1. **Parenting Coffee Hour** – Faith, food and fellowship with discussions every Sunday around family and children. Our Lord cares about each trial and triumph.
2. **Book of John** – Our Wiersbe study continues through mid-February.
3. **“Psalms: The Epic of Eden”** – with Dr. Sandra Richter. **NEW!** A scholarly look at the praises and prayers in the hymnal of ancient Israel – DVD and discussion in 8 sessions.

January 29: Intergenerational “5th Sunday” Breakfast for all ages in the Dining Room at 9:45. Watch the Bulletin for more details. Come for food and fun in the Lord together!

* * * * *

We welcome Mark Slomski as he becomes our new Pastor of Youth and Adult Ministry! I am retiring from the role of Director of Adult Education as of the end of December after 4 years. What a wonderful challenge it has been! You’ll still see me involved in the life of our congregation in many ways. I have deeply appreciated your prayers and participation in serving our Lord Jesus Christ together. Praise His mighty name!

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

Treasurer's Financial Summary for January-November 2022			
Description	Jan-Nov 2022 Amount	Budget	
Income			
Total Giving	355,280.54	330,018.00	
Other Income	17,790.63	48,429.00	(budget includes transfer from surplus of \$34,674)
Total Income	373,071.17	378,447.00	
Spending			
Education and Ministry	16,472.90	24,434.00	
Operating	55,082.66	60,705.00	
Personnel & Related	293,765.64	292,997.00	
Total Expenses	365,321.20	378,136.00	
Net Income Year to Date	7,749.97	311.00	
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 (12/13/22) we’ve had 125 families pledge a total of \$336,610 to the Operating Budget and \$100,380 to the Missions Budget.



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/GivePlus+ program, that will be discontinued at the end of 2022.)



Missions January 2023

Happy New Year to all! We continue inviting all to experience God’s love.

Praying for our missionary families

The BGs: Carlos Bonilla and Mayra Giovanetti



“God wanted to make known among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery, which is Christ in you, us, all y’all, that can truly be the hope of glory.” What a refreshing thought that none of us has to do this alone.

Carlos and Mayra are serving the Iberoamerica and the Caribbean region through discipleship, peace and justice initiatives, and (hopefully again very soon) short-term missions. January to June 2023 the BGs are on US/PR assignment. From their Florida base they are visiting Puerto Rico, Indianapolis area, California, and Georgia congregations during the first six months of 2023.

Mayra and Carlos have visited the United Church several times and hosted the United Church’s 2016 Bluefields, Nicaragua short term mission trip.

Pray for the BGs as they share with multiple US/PR congregations and prepare for expanded ministry with the Iberoamerica and the Caribbean region congregations.

Christ in all y'all... Acts and Love in Action Find the BGs on www.facebook.com/BGsEtAl

Ryan and Alethia White’s Christmas greeting from Germany to the United Church

Ryan and Alethia’s new assignment is Co-regional liaisons for Northern and Central Europe. They remain connected with ministries that support Iranians and Afghans who have left their homelands, while also engaging in broader relationships and conversations with PC(USA)’s partners in the wider region, which at the moment also includes supporting connections with Southern European partners.

Where is Hope?

“Hope is found in all places where there is a refusal to accept the narratives that dehumanize one another based on ethnicity, country of origin, gender or sexual orientation. Where we continue to see one another as human, as a person who bears the image of God, and where prayers of solidarity and acts of compassion move us to care for one another.

“And hope was also displayed as members of the Iranian Presbyterian Church in Berlin gathered together on World Communion Sunday. Amidst the protests and challenges faced in their home country, prayers of solidarity and cries for justice were lifted up. The service concluded with communion and remembering that Jesus’ teachings put him at odds with the powers of his day, which led to his crucifixion. As the elements of communion were shared, we were reminded that God stands with those who suffer and through Jesus experienced death, but also showed through the resurrection that life comes through death.”

Alethia and Ryan have two young daughters



Wir wünschen Ihnen eine besinnliche Adventszeit und ein friedliches, frohes Weihnachtsfest!
We wish you a reflective Advent time and a peaceful, merry Christmas!
Wir bedanken uns und hoffen, dass wir die Gespräche im neuen Jahr gemeinsam fortsetzen können.
We send our thanks and hope to keep the conversations going together in the new year.
Mit herzlichen Grüßen von unserer Familie,
With warm wishes from our family,
Ryan, Alethia, Ariella, and Laila



THANK YOU for continuing contributions

- To the welcome center’s food cart for CCIA and Salvation Army food pantries
- To the welcome center’s winter wear bin

You made a difference with generous Christmas Joy! contributions in December. Past – Present – Future church leaders receive encouragement and support in witness to God’s glory.

A Note from Called to Care, Canandaigua...I was reminded this week of the effect of one person’s making a difference. Our Rotary Club Invocation was the story of the starfish. You know it. After a storm one day there were thousands of starfish washed up on the sand as the tide went out. An old man observed a young boy picking up the starfish, one by one, and throwing them back into the water. The old man said “but don’t you realize that there are miles of beach and starfish all along. You can’t possibly make a difference.” After listening politely the boy reached down and picked up a starfish and gently tossed it back into the sea. “It made a difference to that one!”

Making a difference is what our Christian faith calls us to do. Our resettlement group here in Canandaigua is now also working actively with World Relief Western NY with its mission to empower local churches, organizations and individuals to serve the most vulnerable. We learn that over 80 million people around the globe have been forced, or made the painful choice, to leave their home. Their greatest hope is that they’ll find a safe place to rebuild their lives and call home.

Our hearts are especially called to those fleeing the desperate situation in Ukraine. We only have to watch the daily news to know the situation is worsening and winter weather has set in. But the family here, safely in the US, talk with their friends and family nightly and know the war is making living conditions nearly unbearable. And they reach out to us at Called to Care...asking can we make a difference in the life of their family and friends? We want to create a community of love and welcome here in Canandaigua. Will you partner with us? Will you consider sponsoring a Ukrainian family by bringing them to Canandaigua? Ulana Fuller (585-259-4422) and I (315-447-0276) would love to talk with you about this important decision and how your responsibilities and our funding sources could make a difference in the lives of families just looking to find a safe home for themselves and their children.

In addition to seeking “sponsors” for Ukrainian families we are looking for apartments. Do you, or do you know of available apartments in the Canandaigua area? Please reach out to Cathy Bush (585-281-4602). There are a possible two additional families who would like to call Canandaigua home.

Let’s imagine together a community of welcome...
Linda Werts (315-447-0276)

February Mission Trip to Mexico...what’s it all about?

And how can you play a part? So far it’s just Ken Allen and I going but we would love your presence with us! The dates are February 13th-20th. An estimated cost is about \$1800 but the church mission trip fund helps with some of the cost. We return each year to renew our shared faith and relationships built around the ministry of clean water. The United Church now has a covenant relationship through Living Waters for the World in Cedralito and Limones. So we will be spending time with brothers and sisters there as well as with our partners in Tabi. Our last days will be spent helping Living Waters for the World host their annual Network Conference, this year in Tekax. We would love your company but even more we would love your prayers for us as we travel, for our Mexican partners as they continue doing God’s work, and for the ministry that is happening as we bring clean water for all God’s children.

Joyfully, Ken Allen and Linda Werts

