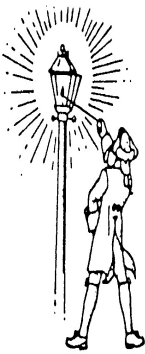


The United Church  
Presbyterian-American Baptist  
11 Gibson Street  
Canandaigua, NY 14424


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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

February 2023

Rev. Dr. Wade Allen



- Feb 6 – Trustees, 7 pm
- Feb 7 – Stewards, 7 pm
- Feb 10 – Organ Concert, Chelsea Chen, 7 pm
- Feb 11 – Youth Game Night
- Feb 12 – SouperBowl Sunday
- Feb 12 – Installation and Ordination of new leaders (both services)
- Feb 19 – Tech Help Sunday
- Feb 20 – Office Closed for President’s Day
- Feb 20 – Official Board, 7 pm
- Feb 22 – Ash Wednesday
- Feb 24 – Winter Jam



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**SPECIAL MEMBER BIRTHDAYS:**

Special Members are those in their 90s, and/or who are homebound, in nursing homes, or who need special care.  
*Please call Virginia at the church office if you need a list and addresses for our Special Members – let’s send cards to let them know how much their church family cares about them!*



Calendar page

**Cyndi Chittenden: Feb. 8**, age 71. Cyndi is member Larry Hood’s daughter. She’s been residing at Ewing Continuing Care Center for about 15 years, where she receives care for her advanced MS. Cyndi can be a real stitch with her humor, so there’s always a laugh when visiting her. Before moving into Ewing, she was a very caring nurse manager at the Rochester Psychiatric Center. To this day, she can recite all the names of her last patients. Cyndi likes colorful jewelry, watching TV, and her ‘heart-throb’ is Richard Gere, who she met through Make-A-Wish! Cyndi has a grown son, Greg, and two sisters.

**Bob Ledgerwood: Feb. 25**, age 70. Bob joined the church in February 2008 and was active in Bible Study groups and adult Sunday School. Bob lives at home where he receives help dealing with his advanced MS. He was a pharmacist at the Canandaigua VA for many years. Bob’s family had a dairy farm in Penn Yan and one of his daughters currently runs a farm in Hornell with her husband. He likes to watch TV: football, *Matlock*, and westerns. Bob also likes antiques and he loved his old 1970s TransAm!

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**Our Special Member, Jack Ebersol, age 92, passed away on December 11<sup>th</sup>; here’s a note from his wife, Rita.**

*The family of Jack Ebersol would like to thank everyone for cards, prayers, and refreshments after the funeral. It was greatly appreciated. Love, Rita Ebersol*

**REMEMBERING:**

Our sympathy and prayers are with **Daryl High**, whose wife, **Julie**, passed away on December 17th. Please keep Daryl, their daughter, Lauren, and the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our sympathy and prayers are with **Bob Cloutier**, whose mother, **Georgette Cloutier**, passed away on December 19th. Please keep the Cloutier, Beyrle, and James families in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Nancy Gerstner**, whose mother, **Flora Spangenberg**, passed away on January 7th. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with **Ryan Marshall**, whose aunt, **Sandy Quinn**, passed away on January 15th. Please keep the Marshall family in your prayers during this difficult time.

**CELEBRATING:**

Congratulations to **Kathy Mills** on the December 6th birth of her new great-granddaughter, **Harper Frances Gillette**. Her parents are **Molly Day and Hunter Gillette**. Please keep the family in your prayers during this special time.

We celebrate the birth of **Calilynn Marie Cooley** on January 10th. Her parents are **Holly and Dave Cooley** and her grandparents are **Wendy and Randy Bacon**. Please keep the family in your prayers during this special time.

Congratulations also to **Kyle and Megan Gardner** on the birth of **Elena Caroline Gardner** on January 16th. Her grandmother is **Karen Gardner**. Please keep the family in your prayers during this special time.

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**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  
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**Chelsea Chen in Concert!...**After two years of cancellations the Rochester Celebrity Organ Recital Series (RCORS) returns to the United Church on Friday, February 10th at 7:30pm. Well known American organist and composer Chelsea Chen will perform as part of the 2022-2023 Concert Series sponsored by the Rochester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and Parsons Pipe Organ Builders. She offers a unique mix of traditional organ repertoire along with piano/orchestral transcriptions and contemporary music. Tickets may be purchased at the door: suggested donation \$12 general admission, \$10 seniors, \$5 students with ID.

## 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.)



## 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.



## Tech Help Day...

If you could use a bit of help navigating the new website or church app, setting up online giving, viewing the livestreams, downloading bulletins, or scanning QR codes we can help!

On Sunday, Feb 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 (there is no Sunday School that week due to the school winter break) come to the Fellowship Room where some very patient helpers will guide you through any issues you may be having.

To be prepared:

- Bring in your smartphone, tablet, laptop or whatever you use to access the website
- Know your banking passwords if you'd like to set up ACH transfer giving. (helpers will remain "hands off" with your sensitive information) If you'd rather, take the information home to link accounts there.



Also, if YOU are good with tech and want to BE one of the helpers, let the church know!

## THE STEWARDS ASSISTANCE FUND:



Donations to the Stewards Assistance Fund help 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, and medical expenses. The recipients of these funds are very, very appreciative!!

*Thank you for helping your church family!*

## GREETERS of ALL AGES are needed for our Services in FEBRUARY:

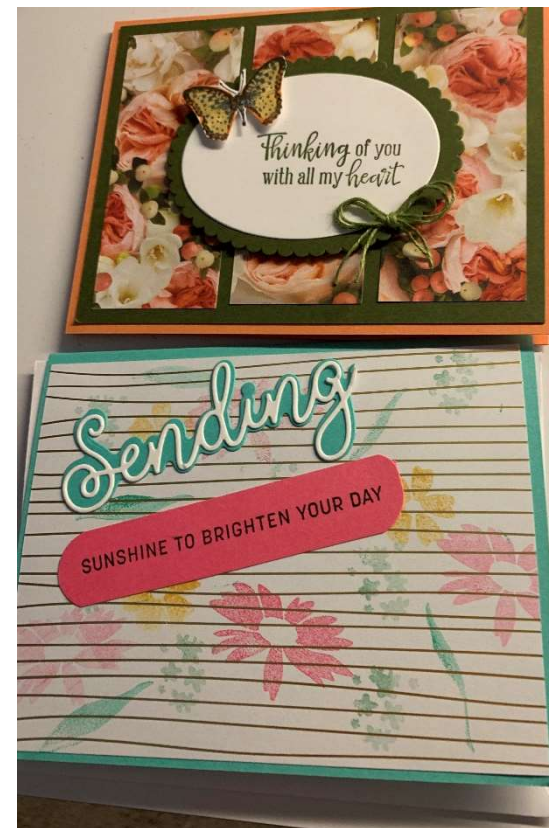
Greeters play an important role in extending hospitality in our church on Sundays. Greeters welcome people as they enter the church building, they hand out Bulletins, and they collect the Offering at each Sunday Service. This is a role where kids can help too!

The **Sign-up Sheet** is on the **Church Office door**. Reminders and instructions are emailed the Friday before your scheduled Sunday. If you have any questions about being a Greeter, please talk with any Steward (listed on the back of the Sunday Bulletin) or the **February Steward of the Month, Margie Wall** or call the Office. ***We really appreciate your service!***



## Stampin Up

The February **Stampin' Up** class is scheduled for **Feb 18th** 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](mailto:shargmeyer@gmail.com)) to sign up **by Feb 12th**.



## Relay for Life Flower Sale

Our new annual flower sale to support **Relay for Life** (our church team is United Against Cancer) will be held for the next few Sundays. Please see Susan & Sandi at our table in the Gathering Area to order.





### Reading the Scriptures

From Advent through Easter, we live in the Lectionary passages. I love that we read portions of the Scriptures from the Prophets, the Psalms, the Epistles, and the Gospels each week. We get to see how the whole of Scripture connects to the story of Jesus.

If you attend a worship service on Sunday mornings, you will hear at least three of these passages in the readings and the sermon. While it is beautiful to listen to the Word of God from various voices in our congregation, perhaps these readings would have more power if you had read them before coming to the service. Maybe the audible Word of God and your private reading of the Scriptures reinforce each week's theme.

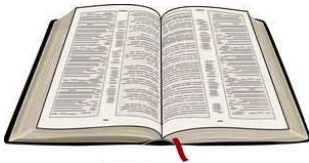
Let me challenge you to take on this practice through these liturgical seasons. We are now in the middle of Epiphany and will make our way into Lent later in February. I will list the readings, along with the sermon text, below. Please take a few minutes throughout the week to meditate on these passages. As we enter the season of Lent, we will again use a devotional that integrates with the weekly selections.

May God use His powerful Word to speak to our hearts and lead us by the power of His Holy Spirit. May the services on Sunday morning be a supplement to weekly worship, not the entirety of it.

Wade

### February Worship Schedule and Readings

- February 05 - Salt and Light Living (Matthew 5:13-16)  
Additional Readings: Isaiah 58:1-9a, Psalm 112:1-9, 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)
- February 12 - Heart Exam (Matthew 5:21-37)  
Additional Readings: Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119:1-8, 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
- February 19 - The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9)  
Additional Readings: 2 Peter 1:16-21, Psalm 99, Exodus 24:12-18
- February 26 - Trials in the Wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11)  
Additional Readings: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19, Psalm 32



On behalf of myself and Charlie, I would like to thank our wonderful church family for the many acts of kindness shown to us over the past months. We will be forever grateful for your support, thoughtfulness and love. May the Lord continue to bless each and every one of you.  
**Charlie and Patti Cagwin**

Dear caring, supportive church family —  
Faith, prayers, love, inspiring music, laughter, visits, cards of beauty, cards of humor. You are blessings. We are blessed. Love and gratitude, **David Crowe and Kathie Meredith**

## Pastor of Youth & Adult Ministry

I am writing this during my first week as the Pastor of Youth and Adult Ministry at our church. First, I must communicate my gratitude for this dream job! Thank you for this opportunity. Your support is felt, and I'm eager to learn from you and serve the Lord in this role.

### Reflections

Here is an incomplete list of my reflections regarding my pastoral calling. The bolded statements feel obvious, but they have been affirmed in my life, and I hope also in yours...

**God is active in our individual lives.** When I was born, my Mother's friend told her I would become a pastor. For the following 15 or so years, I was interested in becoming an NBA player, a race car driver, or perhaps more realistically, a law enforcement officer. Yet, here I am, a newly called pastor at the church I call home, over 30 years after that comment from my Mother's friend.

**God's timing is different (and better) than ours.** I sensed an explicit calling into ministry back in undergraduate school (over 10 years ago). I graduated seminary in 2017. Yet, at the time I was working in the safety and security industry. How could I possibly make the jump into pastoral ministry? It seemed impossible. So, on I went, partnering with manufacturers to improve their operational effectiveness, efficiency, and safety.

I was also impatient. Growing up professionally in a manufacturing setting, I was trained to achieve results today, not tomorrow. Tomorrow meant the competition wins, and we lose. I'm admittedly oversimplifying manufacturing performance strategy, but I'm making a point: God's timing was different than mine. I pray I've learned the lessons I needed to learn during those years of preparation. I look forward to learning more!

**God asks we act in faith.** I am naturally risk averse. It goes without saying this tendency made advocating for safety and security standards easier. On the other hand, jumping from the comfort of having career capital in a growing industry to a rookie in a shrinking industry (at least in upstate New York) challenged me.

After many years of hesitancy, I started applying to churches in the area. It seemed only then did doors start opening (in reflection, I guess that also seems obvious and logical). In what still feels too good to be true, I find myself with the great privilege of serving my home church, under the guidance of a seasoned pastor, in a role that I've dreamt of for so long, but thought would never happen. God is good!

**God works through people.** My jump into applying for ministry jobs was influenced by the honest discussions I had with key people in my life. God used, family, friends, professors, clergy, and even strangers to guide me to where I am. I pray God will use me in similar ways for others.

I'm still discerning what this article will look like on a monthly basis. I ask for your feedback and requests. I plan to use this space for reflections and to offer theological insight.

Peace,

Mark Slomski



# ADULT MINISTRY



Connected to Christ  
Connected to Each Other  
Producing Fruit

No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.  
John 15:4

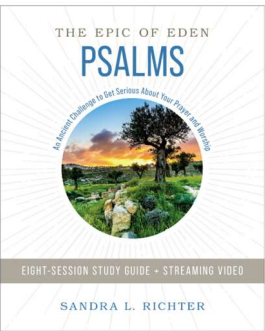
## Reflections

During this time of transition, we get the chance for some unique reflection on the history of our **Adult Education** program. We’ve been blessed with talented staff who have followed the Lord’s leading, alongside Adult Ed committee team members through so many years. A quick look in the Adult Ed office is all you need to see the history of Bible and topical studies that our adults have journeyed through. Review of the archived retreat booklets gives evidence to the experiences our programs have provided through wise speakers and peaceful retreat centers. Surely, our church has been blessed, and I look forward to seeing what God has in store for Adult Education moving forward. I have had the privilege of participating in the various **Young Adult Ministry** efforts our church has committed to over the years. Since joining the church as a young adult over 12 years ago, I’ve observed young adults supporting our church’s youth ministry, attending young adult conferences (Passion and BASIC Conferences), serving on mission trips (NYSUM), and participating in Bible studies (Sunday school and small groups). These activities were made possible by faithful volunteers and staff through the years. As we enter a new era of Young Adult ministry here at the church, we acknowledge we are building upon the foundations that God has placed down all the years before.

## Learnings

I’m thankful for Paul Johnson, as he has stepped alongside me during our role transitions, getting me up to speed on the current activities of our **Adult Ministry**. I’ve learned about the wonderful Sunday school groups, including the ongoing Parenting Coffee Hour, and the Book of John Study. I learned about our class on the “Feasts of Leviticus 23” which recently concluded. I’ve also learned about our various small groups, with an estimated 55 people cumulatively participating, that are active in our church. We are also actively learning what our **Young Adult Ministry** will look like in the coming months. To start, we have organized a **weekly lunch every Saturday at 11:00 AM, at the church**. Our current focuses include food, fellowship and faith!

**Upcoming Class:** Book of Psalms – Starting February 26!



### Adult Education

#### Current Sunday School Classes

Parenting Coffee Hour (Fellowship Room)

Book of John (Downstairs Dining Hall)

**Tech Day:** February 19 (bring your smart phones/mobile devices to learn how to use the Church Center app! More details to come!

### Contact Information



**Mark Slomski**

Pastor of Youth & Adult Ministry

Mark.Slomski@uccdga.org

585-455-7491

Generous 2022 prayer and financial contributions to Missions continue improving lives in Ontario County and around the world. We are connected to Christ and to many others.

Refugees arriving in Canandaigua receive assistance from Canandaigua Churches in Action and the Salvation Army, agencies included in our annual budget. CCIA is able to provide some food, clothing closet access, and vouchers. New beds are provided by the Salvation Army. Working collaboratively a welcome is extended.

**February 7-19** a nine member NY team will be returning to Nicaragua (Lynn Bernard, Mike Walker, and Don Rensberger from the United Church and six team members connected with Elmira Heights Baptist.) 2023 is the tenth year of the NY American Baptist connection with AMOS Health and Hope. **Project:** “Bringing electricity to one rural community clinic in Matagalpa, Nicaragua, providing a new medicine cabinet, installing water filters and first aid training for community members.” For the past year, over many zoom sessions, this trip has been developed with missionary Christine Lafferty and the AMOS staff. Seven to eight hours of travel time is required to go from the AMOS compound to El Secorro, the rural community that has no electricity. (El Secorro is the community visited by the NY and PA/DE Baptist team in 2015.) Adding electricity to the clinic will aid the rural health promoter with diagnosis and treatment during hours of darkness. AMOS programs have served approximately 74,600 people in 25 rural communities in six regions of Nicaragua. Since 2012, the communities AMOS works alongside have experienced zero maternal deaths, and in 2020, less than 1/6th of the national rate of child deaths.

**February 13-20** Linda Werts and Ken Allen will visit the Mexican communities of Cedralito, Limones, and Tabi. Each community has a Living Waters for the World installation, Tabi was the 2022 installation site. They will also be part of the LWW organization helping at the two day LWW Yucatan Network conference in Tekax.

In January a **Family Promise** Canandaigua house was cleaned and prepared by a United Church organized team. A homeless mother with three children is having a new beginning.

January 30 a United Church team participated with the **FoodLink Drive Thru food distribution**. Bags of vegetables, fruit, and carbohydrates were placed vehicles as they passed through the line. February 27 will be the next scheduled distribution sponsored by Partnership of Ontario County and CCIA at the Canandaigua Town Barn.

**Thank you** for the food donations in each week. The cart located in the WELCOME CENTER provides food and supplies to the Salvation Army and CCIA.

Pray for the Nicaragua and Mexico teams. Thanks for your support.

**Light overcomes darkness. Love overcomes hate. Our connection to Christ produces fruit.**

**Called to Care, Canandaigua** has welcomed its second refugee family into our community. After a five day journey, this family of mother, father and three month old daughter has been warmly welcomed by family already here in Canandaigua and by many volunteers. They are rested now and have begun the several appointments that are a part of their resettlement tasks to obtain health insurance, English classes and employment. At the moment our two sponsored Ukrainian families are adjusting well thanks to their own motivation and to the many who are helping them. And now with the recent change in immigration policies we find we are able to help the young Haitian couple who has been asking some of us to help get them out of Haiti for over year. We have an apartment for them and are hoping to welcome them in early February. All of this is made possible by our many volunteers and the support of the community. Many of us will be gathering for a fun night and fundraiser on **February 11th** at Crosswinds Wesleyan Church. We hope you may want to join us. **“Called to Care is Chasin’ the Blues”** will feature family friendly comedians Dan Kulp and Greg VanAlstine, Ukrainian singer Yuliya Pavlyuk, and jazz group “The Sound” from the Academy. The event will begin at 7:00pm with desserts, savories, and beverages served throughout the evening. **Tickets are \$20 in advance/\$25 a the door** and are available at Canandaigua National Bank, Mobile Music, by calling 315-447-0276, or here at church on Sundays, January 29th and February 5th. The United Church is helping to support the event. For more information about Called to Care, Canandaigua or to volunteer please speak with Linda Werts.





## Children's Ministries

Youth Club, Sunday School, VBS, and more!

### Birthday Bags

February is Birthday Bag month at Youth Club! During Youth Club, students will decorate and fill Birthday Bags for the Canandaigua Churches in Action (CCIA) Food Pantry. These birthday bags will be available at the food pantry for families celebrating birthdays! This project has been well received!

Donations of box cake mix, frosting, birthday napkins, birthday candles, and colorful balloons will be accepted in Deb's office until Feb 12. Thank you!

### Sunday School

Sunday School for children and youth, ages 3-years-old through high school, meets on Sundays at 9:45am. You are welcome to join us any Sunday that your schedule allows. We would LOVE to see you!

Please note: We will NOT have Sunday school on February 19, due to winter break for schools

### YC Field Trip

The Youth Club kids will travel to the Greater Canandaigua Civic Center to go Ice Skating on March 15. Details to come.

### Upcoming Events

February: Service Day  
March: Church Family bowling night  
details TBD in bulletin and email

### Lent begins on Wednesday, February 22

Children and youth will be given Lenten devotionals on Feb 12. Parents are encouraged to make this a special family time during Lent.



### VBS July 10-14, 2023 9am-12noon

Kids will launch on a cosmic quest where they'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. Stellar VBS rockets kids on an out-of-this-world adventure that's light-years of faith-building fun.

# YOUTH MINISTRY

## Reflections

2023 has started with a return to normalcy after the holiday break. We are back to our weekly Cause programming. We are planning the same great events that have made the Cause what it is today (with some updates).

Pray for us as we step forward in this new calendar year, full of new learnings and opportunities to love God and others. We may have some fun along the way, too!

## Learnings

For the next several months, we will be discussing questions that this generation of teenagers are asking. Based on research conducted by the Fuller Institute of Youth, we are following the structure of their book titled "3 Big Questions That Change Every Teenager". We are using this book in a couple of ways:

**First**, the members of our Youth Ministry Team are reading a chapter per month. During our monthly meeting, we summarize the chapter we read, and reflect as a group. **Second**, we discuss main themes within the book with our teenagers. Every week, we engage with what the research shows, discover what the Scriptures say about it, and then reflect on what we are surprised, challenged, and encouraged by in regards to our learnings.

Interested in learning more? A copy of this book is available in the Youth Office!



**Rap Battle:** Two students competed in a head-to-head battle, with smooth beats in the background. Topic? How to make cookies.



**Youth Ministry Book:** For those familiar, this book is related to another titled "Growing Young", previously read by the Official Board.

## Ways to Give

*Your Time (we have volunteer opportunities!)*

*Prayers (individually & in groups)*

*Fundraisers (check Sunday bulletins!)*

*Donations (e.g. cans & bottles)*

## Contact Information



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